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NOTES ON SITES OF HURON VILLAGES

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Notes on Sites of Indian Villages

Townships of North and South Orillia (Simcoe Co.)

Reprinted from the Ontario Archaeological Report for 1903

By ANDREW F. HUNTER, M.A.

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BY
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TORONTO
WARWICK BRO'S & RUTTER
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Archeological Map of the former Town ships South Orillia and part of North Orillia
The numbers on the map correspond with the numbers given to them in the text

INDIAN VILLAGE SITES IN NORTH AND SOUTH ORILLIA TOWNSHIPS.

The settled parts of both townships are hilly. The ends of two long ridges come out of the adjoining townships along the west side,—the one out of Medonte into North Orillia, the other out of Oro into South Orillia. Besides these a long ridge runs through both townships, near Lake Couchiching and parallel with it, for several miles. This prominent line of high ground, which takes a north-easterly direction as known locally in North Orillia as The Ridge. It extends as far as the ninth concession of that township and owing to its isolated position it is quite a conspicuous feature in the landscape. It deserves our special attention, as it is, in a sense, the barrier that holds back the waters of Couchiching from pouring directly over to Georgian Bay, detecting them by the Severn River.

At the town line between the north and south townships, there is a break where "The Ridge" in North Orillia is cut off from the high ground in South Orillia. Branches of Silver Creek take rise in this gap, becoming fair-sized streams, and the Midland Railway utilizes it for a passage. Village sites of the early Huron period some of them quite populous, are found generally along The Ridge, but are more numerous in the vicinity of the Silver Creek springs than elsewhere.

The "Algonquin" shoreline girdles these hills or ridges as elsewhere and this extinct shoreline is marked, on the accompanying map to give the outlines of the different parts of the townships. The Algonquin was a strong shoreline everywhere but in the Orillia townships it is even stronger than elsewhere. The main cutting is very distinct, and about sixty feet lower the base of the submerged filling also becomes a well-developed shoreline. The term as used in this report, applies to the main cutting. This main strand of the shoreline in the vicinity of Silver Creek attains an altitude of 375 feet above sea level or 195 feet above Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching.

North Orillia is a large township but parts of it are still covered with original forest. It has, accordingly been found unnecessary to show more than a portion of this township on the accompanying map.

The list of 34 sites (12 in North Orillia and 22 in South Orillia) may not embrace one-half the sites that will ultimately be recorded for these townships. It is necessary to emphasize that I make no claim for completeness or perfection of the lists, especially that for the north township. But the sites I give are the more conspicuous ones, and will lay a foundation for future work by showing the lines of early occupation and travel. Even these show evidences of a considerable population in the early Huron epoch—the first half of the seventeenth century.

The plan followed here being the same as in earlier reports, the task of collecting the data and its attending difficulties have been sufficiently dwelt upon in those reports. In the present one, equal pains with those previously issued have been taken to make the observations correct and the features described may be verified in most cases by everyone for himself.

The Huron occupation of the region now under consideration in relation to its physiography was not different from that in the townships previously examined. The Hurons, kept to the high ground or ridges as we found them doing elsewhere. The ground in the south part of South Orillia was not well adapted for occupation by Hurons and their allies. It is too stony and gravelly and the small ridges there are too abrupt and narrow for their settlements. The high ground above the "Algonquin" shore line in the north half of South Orillia, according to the remains that have been found was their favorite habitat. Besides this, Brought's Creek and its branches, rising [illegible] Bay and [illegible] were used.

Like the other townships of this district, each of which has an important feature of some kind the Orillia townships have one of their own not less interesting than the others. They consist in the line of contact between Huron sites and those named Algonquin by the Jesuit Relations. Some of the village sites show differences of their own when compared with village sites other townships known to be distinctly Huron. Hence I am of the opinion that the former were the villages of the Algonquins. There may have been some overlapping of the Arendarronons (the most easterly Huron tribe) with the Algonquins as their sites belonged to one and some to the other. And as the sites here as elsewhere do not all belong to the same years even to the same period one may have followed the other over the same ground. Further study of the sites will perhaps reveal some movement of this kind. But in any case, the sites which I am inclined to call the Algonquin sites have distinct characters, and might almost be said to preponderate over the Huron sites in the Orillia townships.

The Indians who inhabited the sites which show the differences just referred to when compared with those of known Huron sites show marked development along certain lines. The more conspicuous of the differences are as follows:—

1. Disks. There is an abundance of stone and pottery disks. These are found in small numbers on most known Huron sites but not in such profusion as we find on the present occasions.

2. Individual burials. A patch of single graves is to be found at every one of the sites in question. This is unlike the mortuary practices of the true Hurons who practised ossuary burial, sometimes with bonepits. In most cases, however the patch of single graves is accompanied by a bonepit or two.

3. Highly decorated pipes and pottery. In the ornamentation of clay pipes, the pictorial art had a more extensive development in the Orillia townships than in the townships farther west where the true Hurons were located. We may safely conclude this ornamentation was due to Algonquin influence, wherever it is found on Huron sites. It is not to be understood that modern Algonquins necessarily show a continuation of the skill of their ancestors, or any trace of it. It was the Algonquin-speaking tribes of three centuries ago to which our remarks apply.

4. Bone needles, awls, etc. The greater abundance of these on the sites called Algonquin, by us, may have been due to better applied hunting grounds than the Hurons possessed. The latter tribes were more agricultural in their pursuits, and more populous.

5. Flints. These are more abundant than on true Huron sites.

6. The Algonquins showed remarkable ingenuity in forming arrow-heads out of pieces of brass from worn out brass kettles.

Some of the features just mentioned resemble those of some sites in the district near Balsam Lake for the descriptions of which we are indebted to Geo. E. Laidlaw. The Orillia townships are not far distant from some of the sites which [illegible] and the points of similarity of some sites are therefore not to be wondered at. His descriptions in former Archæological Reports bring out well the points of contrast between a proportion of the sites in the district near Balsam Lake, and the true Huron sites.

For locating the position of Ste. Elizabeth the museum of the Jesuits among the Algonquins of whom we have been speaking, Dunreuil's map although it gives this mission, fails to help us much, as there is a confusion of North Rivers with Severn River and the entire omission of one of them as I previously pointed out. It is possible, however that Ste. Elizabeth was in the distinctly defined group of villages near Silver Creek. In townships previously examined we found evidence to show that a mission station belonged to a district marked off or isolated by physical features and the one in question is so distinctly defined as to lead us to make the conjecture with a fair degree of probability. On the other hand there is a group of sites north of Bass Lake, partly in Medonte township occupying a similar position with reference to North River that the Silver Creek group does with reference to Lake Couchiching and the Severn and it will be impossible to settle the question definitely without taking into account the group partly situated in Medonte.

European relics are abundant in the Orillia townships, and this is one of their chief characteristics. Iron or white man's relics have been definitely reported from 26 of the 34 sites or 76 per cent of the whole. In this respect, the Orillia agree with the northerly tier of townships—Tiny, Tay and Medonte.

Some people have claimed that Cahiague the Huron town visited by Champlain, was situated near Lake Couchiching, and was perhaps

the Mount Slaven site. The improbability of this site having been Cahiague is discussed in the description of the site itself.

Burials.

There are eight bonepits reported, viz., at Nos. 6, 7 and 14 North and at Nos. 3, 4 (2), and 16 (2), South. Two pits each are reported for the two last mentioned sites. Patches of single graves or individual burials occur in even a larger proportion of sites than in townships hitherto examined in our passage through the district of the old Hurons. Figures thus based on aggregate results afford us reliable and instructive data. In short, we have found the practice of burying in single graves where we locate the Algonquins, and we may therefore conclude that the single burial grounds in the other townships (such as No. 41, Cos), were due to the presence or influence of Algonquins. Bonepit and scaffold burial was evidently the rule among Hurons.

Trails.

In these townships, as elsewhere, the Indians had his trails in accord with the hills, valleys and streams following their natural order and positions. The white man pays but little attention to these circumstances, and has almost forgotten to take them into account in his reflections on Indian days and ways except in one or two cases, notably the Coldwater Road. The Town of Orillia, like most other towns of our fellow-Canadians, is built at the meeting-place of several Indian trails. It is or was in the days of the forest and the red man, the centre point of branching routes. These were for the most part, not canoe portages but forest trails, pursued by the Indians when journeying without canoes. It may be expedient to take these trails in order passing over the various trails in succession that opened to a view.

The Muskoka Road. From the abundance of relics and sites found along the high ground in South Orillia, and thence along the Ridge in North Orillia as far as the ninth concession of the latter and beyond it is evident that a trail followed the ridge parallel with Lake Couchiching, but inland some distance from the lakeside. The writer has frequently pointed out in connection with other townships that the ridges which were wooded with hardwood usually invariably had trails along them. The low flat and contented swamps or thickets and were less penetrable for wayfarers. The present instance is no exception to the rule. From Orillia town to Washago the Muskoka Road opened prior to 1858 along the east flanks of the ridges and in parallel with Lake Couchiching, is the modern representative of the old forest trail. The present road however runs perhaps a little nearer the lake than did the old trail itself yet the two follow the same course. This trail was in use down to modern times. The Rev. Dr. Gray and other early settlers testify to the existence of the trail here within their remembrance. There were also portages to the Severn River and these crossed the Muskoka Road or trail to Washago.

The Coldwater Road. This was a long portage from the Narrows, or rather from Lake Couchiching at the point where Orillia town now stands, to Coldwater on Matchedash Bay, its length being fourteen

miles. In 1830 when Sir John Colborne the Governor of Upper Canada collected the Chippewa tribes of the district into a reserve here, extending along the portage, the original trail was cleared out as a road for vehicles, and it has remained an important highway to this day. Northwestwardly from the fourth line (S. Orillia) at the Orillia Cemetery, this road now runs through flat ground. But there is a conspicuous bar of gravel and sand or old lake ridge across the valley or channel, only 15 or 20 rods north of the present surveyed road. This bar would carry the original trail. A similar remark applies to the crossing of another channel nearer Sno Lake. Elsewhere the present course for the road is almost identical with the trail.

The Huron trail out of Ore to Orillia town site. This trail, which is the one Champlain evidently followed is now represented by the Ore Road. Although the latter follows a straight course along surveyed lines, it carries a large traffic over the same route the lines of transportation for white men being almost the same as those for their red predecessors, as in so many other places.

The Athelsey Road. This evidently follows the old trail from Orillia town to the "Narrows" used when the aborigines travelled without canoes.

CATALOGUE OF SITES—NORTH ORILLIA

i

On the east half of lot 21 concession 5. This place is far down the North River. Cranberries and huckleberries grow plentifully in the neighborhood, and have supplied the aborigines in their frequent sojourns. Surface rocks make their appearance a little way off (viz. about lot 21) and extend northward indefinitely. In the summer of 1902 Fred Longhurst, the owner of this lot, plowed up an Indian's skeleton and an iron tomahawk.

ii

On the east half of lot 11 concession 3. Jay Walker. This site occupies a hill and numerous relics have been found including iron tomahawks. Flint arrowheads are plentiful.

iii.

On the west half of lot 6 concession 2. Chas. Clark. They have found numerous relics and fragments, especially at their garden but the site has been partly obliterated by cultivation. It extends into lot 7 formerly owned by the Drinkwater Brothers. The land here about is flat, but a little way east drops at once of the "Algonquin" shore lines.

iv

On the east half of lot 2, concession 1. A. Magrath. On the south side of North River numerous remains have been found. Chas. H. Moffatt once lived here and found numerous relics of the usual kinds, but it is noteworthy that his family found no relics of Euro-

peam make. They found many good flints here, but pottery fragments were not as abundant as at their present place in South Orillia. This was Jacob Powley's homestead in former years, and many surface pits (no doubt empty caches, or perhaps maple graves) were to be seen at that period.

v

On the east half of lot 1 concession 2, R. J. S. Drinkwater (his father the late Capt. John Drinkwater settled here in 1832. They have found many iron tomahawks arrowheads and stone axes on this farm and north of Mr Drinkwater's house some pottery fragments, showing occupation. Mr Drinkwater has been very observant in matters of this kind but although he has found numerous relics he has given them all away without making a collection of his own. This locality was once a favorite place for beavers especially as a small stream running into North River here. The place is surrounded by streams, and thus somewhat protected as the site for a village.

vi

On the east half of lot 2, concession 4. Before the year 1870, Edward Turner discovered a bone-pit here, near the swamp. He was following a path through the woods when he noticed a depression in the ground, and having seen such burial places before, he resolved to dig into it. On doing this, he found the deposit of human bones. He also found in the pit five brass kettles, one of these contained the moccasined foot of a squaw which had been preserved by the copper oxide, but this rapidly decomposed when exposed to the air. According to Mr Turner's description of the pit, it contained hundreds of skeletons. The soil was very sandy at the place. The pit is half way west in lot 2 and on a low ridge along the crest of which the above-mentioned road path followed. F. W. Fraser of Toronto who took part in the opening of this pit in or about the year 1885, was the first person to give us information of it. There were various maple graves found around about the large bone pit. In one of the isolated graves there were three skulls, one of which was supposed to be that of a European person though with what certainty of proof I have been unable to find. Altogether there were some thirteen kettles found in the pit and some wampum. In the maple graves were found a clay pipe, a stone pipe and an iron tool.

vii

On the east half of lot 1 concession 4 John Ego. This lot was formerly occupied by the late Thomas Campbell. Some years ago, a large bone-pit was found on the southeast face of a hill, about half a mile west of Silver Creek. It was dug out at the time Mr J. F. Hammond, of Orillia, who gave me the particulars of this pit also informed me that the soil at the place is sandy and would be easy for the aborigines to dig with their roughly-made wooden tools.

On the south west quarter of lot 2, concession 5 Archibald Fyfe This site is on the northwest side of Silver Creek and close to it Soil sandy It occupies a hillside. Mr Fyfe has found numerous remains here including stone axes, clay pipes, beads, etc.

IX.

On the southwest quarter of lot 1 concession 5. Geo. Greer (who lives upon east half lot 2). The site is on a sandy plain, on the north side of Silver Creek Iron tomahawks were found at or near this site and Wm. Renne, jun. of Mitchell Square found a clay pipe of the [illegible] pattern which is a distinct style Huron or Tobacco Nation form belonging to the early French period or earlier Mr Renne also found a part of the blade of a rapier Mr Greer has found besides iron tomahawks, a steel knife flat wampum beads, pottery disk and clay pipe bowls (Huron forms). There are or were some artificial depressions in the surface of the ground of this site.

X.

A.

On the west half of lot 3, concession 6 William S. Brennan. On the ridge at the rear of the dwelling-house considerable quantities of pottery fragments and other remains are found The pottery here was highly decorated. Mr Armour, a relative of Mr Brennan who once excavating for the foundations of the house found a large bone pot almost underneath the front door

XI.

On the west half of lot 5, concession 8 Robert W Holmes. The site is a patch on the summit or brow of the Algonquin shoreline and consisted of ashbeds with pottery fragments as on brass arrowheads, etc. It had a defensive position Mr Holmes has found iron tomahawks (French make) by dozens, and these are also to be found on other farms about here.

XII

On the east half of lot 9 concession 9 Charles Bradley This site is near a small stream and is in a line with the east end of The Ridge and a nice cove or bay of Lake Couchiching the head of which is at the end of the eleventh line. The swamps are about three-quarters of a mile from Lake Couchiching There were ashbeds and empty caches of surface pots. In the ashbeds they found, in former years more frequently than in late years, bone arrowheads, bone needles, bone shells, etc., and in the vicinity iron tomahawks (French pattern) and stone skinners.

CATALOGUE OF SITES—SOUTH ORILLIA.

i.

On the south half of lot 1 concession 1 Henry W Smith. Here was once the Indian Agency on the Coldwater Road, and at an early date a clearing had been made in connection with it, in which the Indians grew corn. Remains of this have been found. A site of the early Huron period also, yielding some relics of various kinds—stone axes pottery fragments, etc.—has been found half way east in this farm, but no iron relics. A human skeleton was found at this place. This site extends a little way into lot 2 (Chas. H Moffatt's) but is a distinct site from the one at Mr Moffatt's house and at some distance from it.

ii.

In the west half of lot 2, concession 1 Frank Nelson Some camps occur at a place on this farm at or near the boundary of Mr Coon' land (lot 3). Pottery fragments were abundant and human face pipes in considerable numbers were found in the refuse many years ago before the place had been much cultivated.

iii.

On the north-east quarter of lot 2 concession 1 Charles H. Moffatt. (Mrs Nelson also occupies part of this lot) An important village site occurs in the extreme north east corner of the lot, covering five or six acres. It includes Mr Moffatt's garden and extends beyond it, crossing the boundary into lot 1 It also extends across the road here (second line) into the lots of the second concession. There is a small stream through the adjoining part lot 1 and the Indian remains have been found a long the south side of the stream The Indian cabins were placed along the banks of the stream, chiefly the village being thus long and narrow and accordingly not palisaded. As relics or other European relics have been found at this site it probably be urged to an earlier period than that to which there was a misunderstanding with the Iroquois and hence there was no great need of palisading. There are numerous refuse heaps here, one of them being two feet thick and showing that the place was occupied for a long time Mr Moffatt has lived here since 1900, and until of late site as near the house, he or family has paid close attention to the numerous articles that have turned up from time to time Bone needles and awls were uncommonly plentiful some twenty having been found. Other articles were:—Wampum bead (bone and stone but no shell wampum), a dozen stone axes clam shell fragments bears teeth (some of them with holes for suspension as being worn), teeth of beavers and porcupines thirty or more stone and pottery disks, many flints, a bone arrow head corn grains etc. The pottery fragments found here are highly decorated one of the pieces showing a human face as part of its decoration. The pipe fragments of this site well repay a careful study The clay specimens show an uncommon development of the pictorial art, perhaps not even so much as a single plain pipe having been found but all being decorated Here is a partial list of some of the pipes—

Human effigy pipes in considerable numbers, several of the cornet or flared-mouth pattern a square mouth specimen (modification of the cornet pattern), numerous specimens of the bell pattern (one of them showing a modification of the bead line of dots into dashes) an effigy pipe (the bowl being the open mouth of a snake, similar to the figure in First Archæological Report, p. 23). The fragments of stone pipes found show also attempts at animal and human designs. At some little distance from this site a bonepit was once found. It probably belonged to this site, although it is unsafe to conclude definitely, because there are other sites within moderate distances of the pit. In 1892, or thereabout, Mr T F Hains, who then taught the Marchmont school made some little examination of this pit but found no remains of any importance. There were no whole skulls, and the other bones were saturated with water or otherwise decayed. Altogether, the information gleaned from this pit has been too insignificant to add much to our knowledge yet the pit may have been opened many years ago, as the late Wm. Smith, who lived on the next farm north (father of the present occupant, Henry W Smith) was aware of its existence.

IV

At the extreme south west corner of lot 8, concession 2, beside Bass Lake, William Jackson. On a terrace in Mr Jackson's field the usual pottery fragments and other relics are found. Gouges and arrowheads were numerous. Also on the higher hill eastward, some remains appeared. Beside the road which passes along the shore of Bass Lake here some of the immense boulders have mortars on their tops. No iron, or other relics of European make are reported for this site, although some are said to have been found in one of the bonepits. Part of this site occurs over the line of the adjoining farm viz. the west half of lot 9, now occupied by Julius Crockford. In the latter farm, there was a large hole in the clay hill supposed to be the place where the clay for pottery was obtained as pottery fragments were numerous round about. This hole, the late Richard Rix, who formerly occupied the farm, filled in when he found it. George Rix now of Orillia town, formerly occupied the farm of Mr Jackson. On the same farm, some distance north from the easterly end of Bass Lake R. J. S. Drinkwater discovered a bonepit when the place was a wreck. The date of finding this pit was September 8 1889 as Mr Drinkwater finds by his diary which he was kind enough to look up at my request. His knowledge of the surface indications of such pits he had obtained from his grandfather the Rev. Geo. Hallen of Penetanguishene. A year or two later while a camp meeting was in progress beside Bass Lake some of those who attended the meeting dug out the contents of the bonepit, which Mr Drinkwater had left undisturbed. Its position was near the Coldwater road. The late Capt. Peter Lyon who saw it at that time, informed me that it had a diameter of about twelve feet. Some brass kettles, clay pipes, etc., are reported to have been found in it. When the curiosity-seekers dug out this bonepit at the time of the camp meeting a doctor who was present put together the bones of a skeleton for the edification of the spectators, thus combining anatomical recreations with divinity. A second and smaller bonepit was found near the larger one.

v

On the west half of lot 5, concession 1 The late E. R. Rowe homestead now occupied by Chas. E. Rowe. The site is on the lower ground near Bass Lake, and extends across two fields. Pottery fragments, pipes etc were found at it especially a number of years ago. Many stone skinners, and French (iron) tomahawks, have been found all over the adjoining fields. D. Tunic got some of the relics from this site when he carried on his archeological explorations some forty years ago, and these are probably in the Laval museum in Quebec city

vi

On the west half of lot 1, concession 4. Edward Turner He has found a few relics of the usual kinds, but the village was small. Iron tomahawks have been found in the neighborhood of the site but none immediately at the place itself.

vii.

On the east half of lot 1 concession 4. Richard Vanderburg, sr This place is situated on the east side of a part of Silver Creek one of the branches of North River There have been extensive ash beds and refuse heaps, mixed with clay pottery and pipe fragments, but the ground is all cultivated now Archibald Fyfe, of North Orillia, once owned this farm and lived on it for a length of time He found various relics while here. Edward Turner now owner of the west half also cultivated this land and observed the remains. Iron tomahawks have been found in the neighborhood of the site.

viii.

On the west half of lot 1 concession 5. Mr [illegible] M. Pyle, of family who occupy the land find in them fields south of the residence an important village site the distance being not far to Mud Lake which is also partly on these land The late Alex McPhee found many relics here, including a few iron tomahawks and his brother J W McPhee now of Epworth N.C also made a collection at the site. These were purchased in 1884 by Mr George W Dryden of Whitby Ont., in whose possession they are at present preserved In reply to my enquiries, Mr Dryden informs me the collection he obtained from the McPh s brothers consists of ten or twelve pipeheads (a any) some of which represent the following —Wolf ow snakes frog and human faces. There are also some ball-shaped iron axes, beads, wampum bone needles, stone disks, etc. Mrs McPhee's sons are also observers of the village site, at which there are numerous deep ash heaps. It extends into the land of Mr Jesse Ryerson (west half of lot 2) It is worthy of note, that arrowheads made from pieces of brass (probably pieces of old kettles) are quite numerous here and some of these were very neatly formed Stone and pottery disks were numerous

ix.

On lot one concession 7 George Arms This lot is broken by Lake Couchiching at the shore of which high terraces of former lake

margins appear. On one of these terraces, Mr Annis has found pottery fragments, pipes, iron tomahawks etc. There is higher ground beside the site so it was evidently not palisaded. The occupants of other farms adjoining this one have found stone and iron axes on their lands, showing this was a rendezvous in early times, as indeed we might expect from the fact that there is a cove in the shore of Lake Couchiching at this place.

x

On Chief's Island Lake Couchiching a few remains have been found. This island has been a rendezvous for Algonquins, both ancient and modern. After the exchange of the Coldwater Tract for the Rama Reserve in 1836, the island became the headquarters of the Chippewas for a time, as its name implies. Relics from an island in Lake Couchiching (probably this island) are in the museum of the University of Toronto marked thus — 169, Two large circular silver brooches, one small brooch three silver buckles, two horn spoons, two small hawk bells etc., from a grave on one of the islands in Lake Couchiching T W Harris." (Compare these relics with those from Fremont Island Report on Tiny, p. 21). See also Sir Daniel Wilson's article on 'Cranial Types' in *Canadian Journal* second series, vol 2 (1857) pp. 406-435 for measurements of Chippewa skulls from Lake Couchiching.

Some reefs on Cedar Island in Lake Couchiching are sometimes miscalled the old "Indian Fort" by a few people, but they are the work of the ice of the lake at a former higher level.

xi.

On the east half of lot 9 concession 1 William Harvey. Many stone, mainly celtiods were in use in this area. These were to be seen here strewn with pottery fragments, pipe fragments, etc. Iron tomahawks (early French make) and other relics have been found. The site covers three or four acres, and is on the opposite side of the valley of the same stream as the next site and upward of a quarter of a mile from it.

xii.

On the west half of lot 10 concession 1 David T Strathearn Mr Strathearn or found pottery fragments and other relics at a place near a water supply as long ago as 1851 or earlier At later dates also, other camps strewn with pottery fragments, etc have come to light on the farm. The relics gathered included two stone squaws. About 1898, Mr Strathearn found a large sculptured stone here (or at the next site), but, unfortunately it was broken in removal Three large ash heaps, or possibly more, are still quite distinct, notwithstanding the efforts of cultivation.

xiii.

On the west half of lot 13, concession 1 This site is on the north bank of Brough's Creek beside what was known as Edmondson's or Salter's Mill Pond. (This mill pond was broken down by the flood

of June 5th, 1900, and has not been rebuilt). Before 1867 when I first became acquainted with the site it had been ploughed two or three times, and remains of camps exposed, strewn with pottery and pipe fragments, and other relics including stone tomahawks. At that time the occupant was Richard Frost.

XV

On the north west quarter of lot 10 concession 3. Thomas Day Near a stream which flows into Shingle Bay. John Snowdon, now of Magnetawan, lived formerly on the part of this farm on which were remains. During the time he lived here copper kettles or pieces of them were found abundantly also iron axes of early French make. Geo. McKinnell, of Orillia town, obtained twelve of these French axes from this site. Two of them are now preserved in the Orierson Museum in Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Richard O. Fell Ore Station obtained two French axes here on which the triple marks were unusually well defined and large, each tomahawk having a distinct pattern. Large ash heaps, mixed with broken pottery pipebowls, etc., occur here. Mr J. H. Hammond Orillia, giving his recollections of the place in the early seventies, says: "It was on the south side of Barrie road about a mile and a half out of Orillia, on the edge of the old mill pond between the road and the mill pond. This plot or site would be two or three acres in extent, and it was on sandy soil. In the field where the village site was a great many remains of the Indians such as broken pottery pipes and broken pipe heads of many stones and quantities of ash heaps and rem ns of fires were scattered over the ground. The pipes were ornamented by a sort of basket work pattern around the head of the pipe and near the top. Some of the pipes had stems, others only the pipe-head with a hole for a stem. The skinning stones were like a green stone different from any around here, and were all chisel-edged. I recollect two grooved stones. These had a chisel edge and were large about nine inches long, a half to three quarters of an inch thick and about three inches wide with a depression around the centre apparently for the purpose of holding the handle. The soil of this village site is a red sand and it is on a level bench, about twelve feet above the level of the water of the dam." (The dam in the stream here is known as Thornton's Mill Pond, and formerly as Dallas from Fred Dallas the earliest settler at the place.) About 300 yards to the west of the village site is the cemetery with which it was probably connected. This burial ground consisted of single graves, situated on the Cappage farm north-east quarter of lot 10 concession 3. Nearly all or quite all of the graves have been rifled of their contents by curiosity-seekers. From all that can be learned I regard it as a noteworthy archæological feature. In company with Dr Jas. N. Marvin of Orillia, I made a visit of inspection to this aboriginal cemetery on June 24, 1899. A tiny stream emptying into the larger stream, divided the burial ground into two parts. About thirty holes in the surface of the ground (presumably graves) were to be seen on one side, and about ten on the other. A tree whose stump showed about 115 annual rings, and had been fifteen years chopped had grown out of one of the holes, thus

showing a minimum age of 180 years for the cemetery. Yet, this is much less than the actual age of the graves, as some French tomahawks furnish evidence that they were much older and belonged to the seventeenth century. The ground at the place is sandy, while surrounding parts are clay and gravel. A little west (not always a quarter of a mile) and slightly higher is the Algonquin raised shoreline. The surface of each grave was depressed below the level of the ground by sinkage, probably, and thus each grave could be seen. It is now close to Thomson's Mill Pond but at the time of its use by the Indians it would be at the edge of a swamp. It resembles the Coleman cemetery in Ore (No. 41), and belongs to the type peculiar to the early Algonquins, and perhaps, also, to the Arendarronons the Huron tribe, who were nearest the Algonquins, and were most influenced by their customs. The graves are said to have yielded a few pipes, (chiefly clay), tomahawks (stone and iron), pottery fragments and stone disks.

XV

The Mount Slaven Site.

Indian remains have been found quite extensively in what is known as the Mount Slaven Annex. This is really a part of Orillia town, but the land is not yet within the corporation limits. On both sides of the Mount Slaven Creek numerous remains have been found. For the most part the plot in question is a large burial ground. Whether it was the regular camping ground of the Indians who buried so extensively here, or whether their camps were at some little distance, is not very evident. But it is certain that many camps, as well with the usual pottery fragments, etc. once—there as well as graves and the probability is that the aboriginal occupants lived right here and buried their dead in the close to their dwellings. The remains have been found within the space enclosed by the Fourth Line of South Orillia and O'Brien Street on the west and east respectively and by Matchedash and Lawrence Streets on the south and north respectively. Within this rectangular block enclosed a space of about 40 acres. Graves and other remains cover about half of this area, which is now partly covered with houses and gardens. Placed as it was on lower ground than anywhere around it and occupying both sides of the creek, the sheltered position of the site would make it a desirable wintering spot. And I must be to think it was used for this purpose for a long period. The mixed character of the relics found here tends to confirm this view. For example French ware axes of the pattern belonging to the seventeenth century as well as pipe-tomahawks (steel) have been found on the site. The latter are not found on early sites, but seem on recent camping grounds and they are to be regarded as belonging, not to the French period of Canada but to the early British period, that is after 1760. It is probable this camping ground was used in both periods. The settlers on the Mount Slaven suburb find many iron and steel tomahawks of both the aforementioned kinds.

Besides the scores of isolated or single graves, which have been thoroughly ransacked for relics by curiosity seekers during the past

forty years there were at least two communal cemeteries or bourgets. The first of these was found about the year 1870 on or about lot No. 212, south of Mary Street, and thirty or forty yards from the creek before-mentioned. Very few buildings were in that part of the town at the time. A pine tree had partly grown over the pit. A large number of skulls and other human bones were found in it.

A similar communal grave came to light in September, 1902. Mr Harry Willey was levelling up his lot on the north side of Mary street, and came across a number of skeletons ten of which were together the skulls occupying the small space of two square yards. Particulars of the discovery appeared, at some length, in the *Orillia Packet* of October 2, 1902. The character of the deposit of bones indicates that the communal idea underlay the placing of them together. At a former time some beads and tomahawks were found with a few other skeletons some yards nearer the creek, and again, in August, 1900 Mr. Willey found an earthen pot (Indian make, complete) beside some other skeletons.

As to the question of what kind of Indians inhabited this site, Mr C. A. Hirschfelder once informed me that he made openings in a few of the single graves some years ago and obtained some European relics. He concluded that the burials he saw had been of later Algonkin origin. On the other hand, Mr Lawrence Hayden, Toronto, stated to me [illegible] that [illegible] was a Huron site, giving as his reason the occurrence of a communal grave out of which he took on less than 38 c bir (shin bones). This appears that the communal bone-pit was a Huron institution only. Perhaps both gentlemen are correct in holding these divergent opinions, as I have mentioned above, the probability that the site was occupied by Indians in widely different periods. Mr Hayden once suggested to me some facts bearing upon the burials, as follows —

"The cemetery or rather series of cemeteries found about quarter of a mile west of the Orillia Town Hall contained copper kettles, remains of blades of knives pipes pottery as well as stone beads, etc. So any village in the vicinity of these cemeteries must have been populous and post French (that is, after the French arrived in the country and not after they had quitted the district, when the Hurons dispersed). Historic and other remains are frequently found scattered within a pretty large circumference of which these cemeteries might be taken as a centre."

Some persons have advanced the theory that this site was Cahiague the town from which Champlain set out in 1615 on his expedition to the Iroquois. The characters of the site forbid the theory even if we had not Champlain's explicit statement, that Cahiague was three leagues from Lake Ouendenang. In the first place, the relics found here indicate that the site was inhabited at widely different times, which would account for the large extent of ground strewn with remains. Yet, large as the site is, it is doubtful whether it would be the spot on which the 200 cabins of Cahiague were placed. And still further it lacks a defensive position which was essential for a large village or town like Cahiague. It occupies flat land with higher ground on two sides of it, and is on both sides of the Creek. A position of this kind was anything but defensive according to our

knowledge of what other fortified villages are like in the matter of position. The site was probably Algonquin, both early and modern and not Huron.

While preparing these descriptions of sites, I was favored by Mr J M Hammond of Orillia, with the perusal of some notes on this site, written by him to preserve some record of the place in its present condition scarcely admits of making a definite account, owing to the presence of so many buildings. Mr Hammond has granted my request to publish the following extracts, a favor that will be appreciated by students of archæology and history generally as there are but few left who witnessed the exhumation of the most important part of the remains about thirty years ago. Mr Hammond whose remarks on the orientation of the burials and other mortuary practices of the Indians who deposited the remains of their dead here, are very interesting says—"In the early seventies, as a schoolboy I spent the greater part of some Saturdays and holidays with my playmates in excavating Indian graves on the late north of the extension of Mississaga street, on Mount Slaven near Orillia Town. Our schoolmaster (Samuel Mellesme) urged us to make all available collections of any objects such as beads, wampum and the like. He was making a collection and realized our ambition in furthering that object. It was then called the Indian graveyard. These excursions lasted over three years, and were pursued by us every convenient Saturday during the summer season.

"The graves were [illegible] from the bank of the creek toward the highroad as the Coldwater Road is a north westerly diversion. All of the bodies were buried in a sitting posture facing the east or morning sun. In every case we came on the skull first. The hands and arms were always in front of and crossing the leg bones.

In only one case were there more than one body in a single hole. In this case the bodies were laid flat head and feet regularly. This hole was oval, about fifteen feet long and seven or eight feet wide, and placed between the second and third tiers of graves, twenty or thirty yards from the bank of the creek. In this big grave we found a large quantity of wampum about the size of a tea cent piece, with a drilled hole in the centre of each piece some round blue beads and some red beads of a bugle shape an inch to an inch and a half long pierced like the others. Also a quantity of flint arrowheads and spear heads. No stone axes that I remember though we had plenty of them from the neighborhood.

"In only one case was any kettle found, and this was southeast of the big grave, on a level piece about half way down to the water's edge. It was upside down and under it was a large quantity of thigh bones which were in no case broken. These had been boiled or were in the process of being boiled when the kettle was upset and the fire put out by the meat and the pot. On top of the pot a big pine stub was standing and the main root of the stub ran down at the earth until it reached the bottom of the kettle, and then grew around the surface at it. The stub would be at least two feet through and we had to cut through the big root to free the kettle before we could get it out of the hole. Underneath the kettle and bones, as above

decorated, were the remains of the fire some of the wood partly burnt, some burnt to coal and some to ashes. The kettle was brass, and had holes for the bail. The rim was flared and was of the same material as the pot itself. It was about two and a half feet across the top and about twenty inches deep. The bail holes were about an inch and a half in diameter, and about half an inch from the edge of the pot. Inside of the pot was a collection of green matter hard and sticking fast to the pot when we found it. The surfaces of the bones were of a brown yellow color, no marks upon them. Underneath the kettle the ashes were bright and clear; no trace of any rotted bark, only pieces of charred wood and coal and ashes underneath the bones.

The graves were in a succession of lines about twenty feet apart each way, and apparently followed a fixed plan of burial. There were, at least, four lines of graves, (possibly more), and they extended through the sand (a coarse grey and well drained sand) to the gravel under the hill at the Coldwater Road. The ground was nearly level, having a slight upward trend toward the Coldwater Road or Trail a distance of a quarter of a mile or more. The ground had at one time been cleared of trees, for the trees were nearly all of one size, viz. about a foot through, while the woods on both sides of the graveyard were larger and contained pine trees some large others small. There were a few [illegible] standing [illegible] graveyard but none on it. The spring creek which run to the east and south had cut a channel from fifteen to twenty feet deep below the level of the graveyard and it was at this time a running stream all the year round.

One of the graves that we excavated was of an exceptional character as the bones were of an enormous size. The skull was intact, with the exception of a break in the middle of the crown. This was two or three inches long and about half an inch wide apparently made by a blow with a blunt axe or pointed stone. The cut ran from the back toward the front of the skull and was widest at the middle of the cut tapering to a point both ways. The lower jawbone of this body was in place and I tried it over my own head and face and it passed clear of my face, without touching it at any place. Our schoolmaster measured the thighbone of this body on his own leg and it extended beyond his knee several inches, and he was a tall man too. We found in this grave a quantity of hair black and long, apparently attached to what we then thought to be a scalp. This was on the knees of the body. I also got out of this grave a black amulet shaped like a bird, which had apparently hung on the breast of the man in life. It was of stone polished and perfect. We also got some flint arrowheads out of this grave, but nothing else that I can recollect.

§ VI.

On the west half of lot 6 concession 5. In the north and highest part of the Town of Orillia, numerous remains have been found along the brow of the Algonquin shoreline. The relics found on this high ground site belong more distinctly to the early Huron period than do those of the Mount Slaven site. The Huron forest

trail appears to have passed along the brow of the ridge here. The following list of some of the remains found is only a partial one:—In the woods on a lot belonging to Lawrence Hayden, Toronto, east of the upper end of Peter street, partly within the town limits, there were found several hatchets. At another place in the vicinity of the same, numerous pottery fragments were found, at a short distance from a spring, as Mr C H Hale informs us. On a lot on Matchedash street, sold by Lawrence Hayden to the Rev Mr Creighton there were found, on clearing off the surface stones, a human skeleton with a hatchet (French of the early Huron period) lying beside it. In the spring of 1913, F Webber, of 25 North Garland street, found a string of wampum (55 beads) while digging a celery trench in his garden. C E L Newton, Esq, found in his garden on Garland Street, near the High School, in August, 1903, a fine brass crucifix, 3 inches long and well preserved. In the *Orillia Packet* of July 16 1909 A. C. Osborne describes a St. Bartholomew medal bearing the date August 24, 1572 which W. J Powley found near where the Coldwater road ascends the ridge. All these finds and many other similar ones in the highest part of the town, indicate an extensive occupation and travel here, in the early period

xvii

On the old Asylum ground now the Park in the town of Orillia (parts of lots 7 and 8, concession 6). This was a prehistoric site or [illegible] and was probably a camping ground for Indians similar to the time when the first settlers came to Orillia. Iron hatchets have been, and are being turned up.

xviii.

On the west half of lot 21 concession 1 William Anderson. Members of Mr Anderson's family have found stone axes, stone pipes, pottery fragments, an iron tomahawk etc. at a place near their boathouse. One of the pipes was of the bell pattern an early Huron type. The site is at the west end of the portage across the neck of land at Carthew's Bay. The Indians use this portage to the present day the trail passing across the neck on the north side of the swale which occurs there. Modern Indians carry their canoes across this neck of about 25 rods rather than paddle around the point (Eight Mile Point) a distance of more than a mile around and also exposed to winds. The evidence at hand also shows that Indians at a very early period preferred to do the same.

Local newspapers of June 1898, mentioned the finding of a human skeleton supposed to be an Indian's) with arms of about the year 1900, at what was called Cameron's Point, two miles to the eastward of this portage. The action of the waves had washed the skeleton partly out of the bank where it had been buried. It proved, however to be the remains of an old trader, who carried on his traffic among the Indians at an early date. When he died they buried him in his old buttermut canoe. There were brass buttons on his coat by which the remains were identified.

xix

In the central part of lot 12, concession 3. Now the grounds of the Provincial Asylum for Idiots, near Orillia Town. The position of the place is at the north-west part of Shingle Bay where the land rises high above the lake level. There was a landing here in the time of the aborigines. The late John Burkitt lived here in former years and found numerous relics, especially many pottery fragments etc. Mr Burkitt's name appears on early Assessment Rolls (1858 and later) as owner of the whole of lot 12. And Mr C. H. Hale informs me this was known as Burkitt's farm after 1848.

xx

On part of lot 11, concession 6. F. S. Sm[illegible]. Numerous relics have been found on his farm which is on the shore of Monk's or Smith's Bay. A favorite landing place of the Indians existed here from early times. Metal tomahawks have been found indicating the occupation of the place during historic times, but there have been also relics found of prehistoric dates. Several years ago, on the narrow tract of land between the two lakes (Simcoe and Couchiching) many stone axes were found. The place was near the Atherly Road on the way to Invermara, and also near the bay just mentioned.

xxi

At Invermara, in the grounds of Orchard Point House (summer resort), formerly the Red Cross Hospital, which is the property of Mr J. P. Sennet Orillia. A paragraph appeared in each of the three Orillia newspapers of May 1, 189[illegible] mentioning the finding of a human skeleton with accompanying Indian relics and also other articles in the vicinity of the find. There were numerous prehistoric, as well as recent relics, the remains thus belonging to all periods from the earliest downwards. Beside the single skeleton (apparently a woman's) there were some stamped out metal ornaments, three brooches, a locket-barred on a brass, about four inches long with "Montreal" and the maker's mark upon it. At a little distance away were found fragments of rough, ornamented pottery, clay pipe heads, stone axes, a bone disk etc. The relics found with the skeleton indicated that it belonged to a comparatively recent period, but the clay pipe-heads and fragments mostly belonged to the early Huron period. The latter included a Huron flared pipe (plain), six bell pattern pipes, and five images from pipes, an owl's head, a hawk's head, the head of another bird, a monkey pipe image, pig's head or wolf's head, and a human face). The foregoing remains indicate various periods of occupation of the site as we might expect from the fact that the fishing station at a little distance north and, in fact, along the entire length of the Narrows attracted Indians thither at all times.

xxii.

Fishing Station at the Narrows.

Remains of the fishing station and fish weir of the Hurons at the Narrows. The position of the old weir is north of the present bridges and south of the old railway bridge. In 1857 the late Joseph

Wallace, an local archæologist, of Orillia, identified this as the fishing station mentioned in Champlain's Journal (1615), at the time when he had extracts from that Journal printed in the *Orillia Times*. (See Champlain's Works Vol. 4, page 34). Mr Wallace also contributed an article on the subject to *The Canadian Indian* (Sault Ste. Marie Ont.) and it appeared in the issue of that periodical for February 1891, pages 124-128 under the heading "A Fishing Station of the Ancient Hurons Identified." Owing to the rarity of that publication it is worth while reprinting here Mr Wallace's words in reference to the fish stakes. After some general remarks on the object of Champlain's expedition he says:—

"The Narrows presents much the same features as in Champlain's days. But its fame as a fishing ground has long vanished—bass may still be caught with the rod or trolling; and in the winter season, some canoes of Indians and whites may be seen spearing herrings through holes cut in the ice. Still there is no doubt that at the time to which reference is made all these lakes were literally swarming with fish. Are there any remains to point out the exact locality where those stakes erected the stream? In answering the question in the affirmative I would state that some years since my friend Gilbert Williams an Indian informed me that he had seen very old stakes which were used by the Mohawks for catching fish. Some time after when I was writing out the story of Champlain for one of our local papers, I was conversing with Charles Jacobs on the subject when he said he had also seen the stakes and further that the locality was known to this day as Mitchekun, which means a fence, or the place where was fenced or staked across. He said that if a strange Indian were to ask him where he came from he would answer mitchekuning, the termination ing" signifying from that is from Mitchekun. We were, at the time, standing on the Orillia wharf and with a sight of the end of the Narrows Charles Jacobs said ask old Mr Snake (who was standing near by), where Mitchekun is. As soon as I asked the old man he turned and pointed to the Narrows which was between two and three miles distant. In September 1885, I walked down to the Narrows, and entered into conversation with Mr Frank Gaudaur who is of Indian extract on and the keeper of the Midland railway bridge who immediately took me to the side of the bridge and only a few paces distant, and showed me a number of the stakes which remained. Dredging the channel for the purpose of navigation had, of course removed the greater part of them only those on the outside of the dredged portion being left. Mr Gaudaur said that there were many other places where stakes might be seen but that then was the most complete part. The stakes as might be expected, were a good deal twisted by the current, but the ends were still connected together and firmly embedded in the clay and mud at the bottom, so that it was only after considerable pulling with a spear that one was brought to the surface. The stakes would be about five or six feet long, and thicker than a walking stick. It is to be observed that they are not placed across in a straight line indeed one portion is continued in a direction half way down the stream and would thus produce an angle when the line was changed upwards, and at the opening of this angle would be placed the net and thus in exact accordance with the

method which Champlain describes, when the Iroquois were hunting deer that is by staking out a large space in the woods, with an angle into which the game was driven. It is not difficult to account for the stakes lasting for so many years when we consider that the tops were under the surface of the water, thus escaping the action of the air and also that of the sea, which in this locality is more of great thickness because of the rapidity of the current. It must be understood that we do not assert that these identical stakes existed there in Champlain's time, although it is possible that some of them may be part of the original construction. It was probably used for fishing purposes long after the time of Champlain and even after the destruction of the Mohawks for I am strongly inclined to suspect that a portion of the Mohawks settled down on the vanquished territory and remained there a considerable time. If such was the case the fence would be repaired from time to time as circumstances required without altering the site in any material extent. The stake which I had, had been pointed with an axe of considerable sharpness as evidenced by the comparatively clean cuts made in the operation. Our present Indians, who are Ojibways, know nothing about them, except the traditions before mentioned. Mr Snake is an old man, and he stated to me that the Indians, when he was young, referred the whole construction and its use, to the Mohawks. It is no doubt, if they are not molested the remains will be in existence a century hence.

A paragraph in the *Orillia Packet* of June 21 1889 affords some further information upon the important fishing station — During his stay here, Mr A. C. Osborne, of Peterborough, accompanied by Mr Joseph Wallace, visited Mr F Gaudaur and they made a most interesting discovery. A copy of Champlain's journal describes the method by which the Indians took fish in 1615. They had rows of stakes driven into the bottom of the Narrows, in such a way as to force the fish a passing from one lake to the other. In this manner enough fish for the commissariat during the expedition in which they engaged against the Iroquois, were taken in five or six days. When this part of the journal was read to Mr Gaudaur he took his visitors to where the rows of stakes could be seen under water. The Ojibways, he said, found these stakes there when they came a hundred and fifty or eighty years since, knew what they were for, but did not use them. They were in large numbers and at one time extended on to across the Narrows, but very many were thrown out in dredging the present channel. The stakes are of tamarac. Mr Osborne secured two—one and evidently been put down to replace another at a date subsequent to the other which was soft like cheese, when pulled out. The top is desiccated and is covered with slime. Though only some six inches were—such as they extend a long distance into the mud. Mr Osborne believes that the older stake is one of those there when Champlain encamped at the spot. Mr Gaudaur says that these under water "fences" probably suggested the Ojibway name of Orillia or the Narrows—Mon-ka-sing. The Place of the Fence.

Following the publication of the foregoing paragraph the present writer communicated a letter to the *Orillia Packet* of July 5, 1889, suggesting that the early French name of Lake Simcoe, viz., Mardia

Lake, (Lac aux Claies), was derived from this fishing contrivance at the Narrows. C. C. James M.A. made a similar suggestion in a letter to the *Toronto Globe* May 29 1896. And in a letter to the *Orillia Packet* of April 2, 1903 Arthur White Deputy Minister of Crown Lands, Toronto, also suggests, or rather points out as an established fact, (though without stating any authority) that the early French adopted the idea of the name Hurd's Lake from the same Indian fish fence. These three suggestions appear to have been made independently of each other making the validity of the suggestion very strong. (See also Gen John S Clark's article in Ontario Archeological Report for 1899 p. 196.)

A F Hunter.

Barrie, December 1903.

Hunter

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NOTE ON SITES OF HURON VILLAGES

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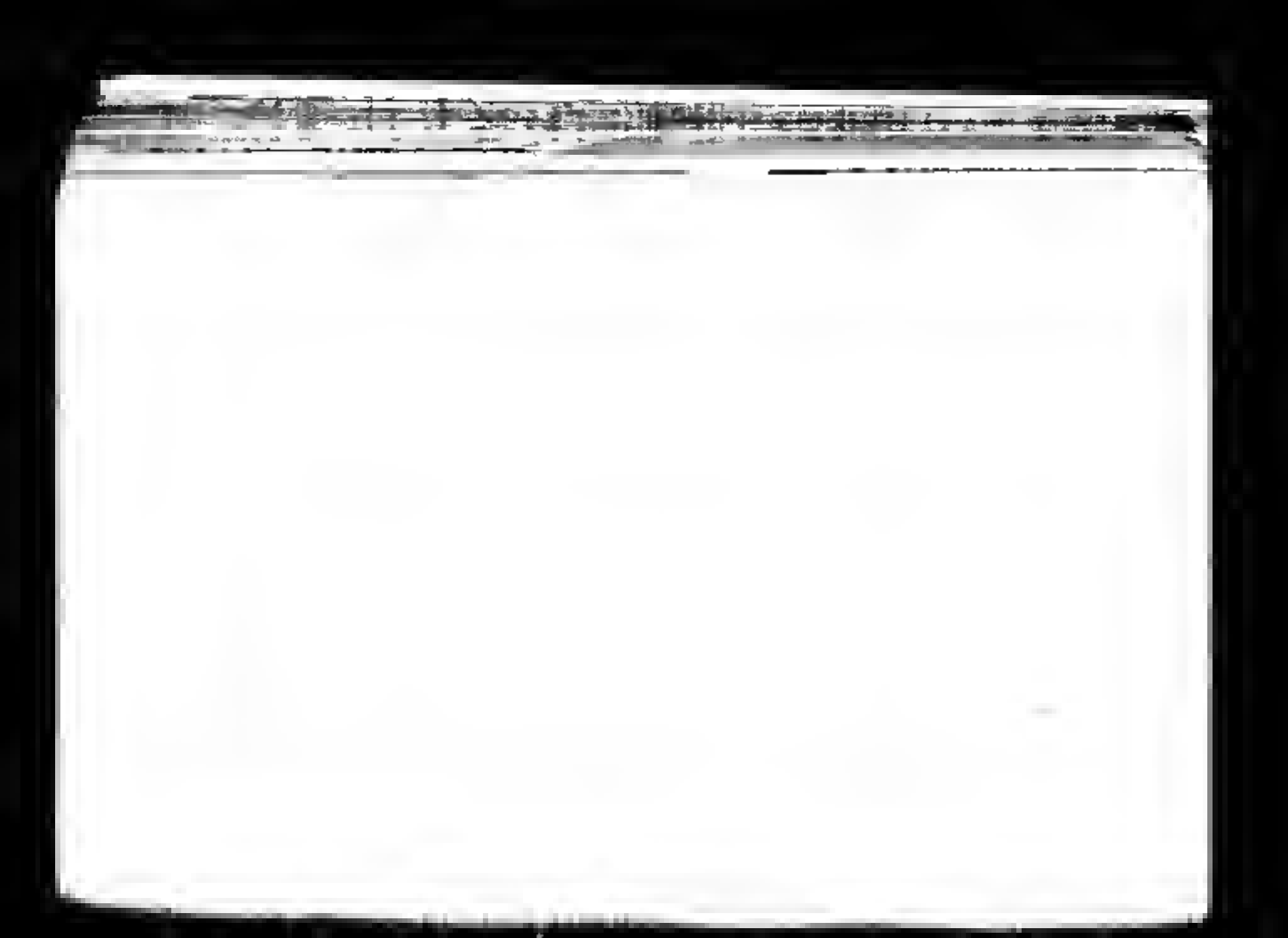

Notes on Sites of Indian Villages

Townships of North and South Orillia (Simcoe Co.)

Reprinted from the Ontario Archaeological Report for 1903

By ANDREW F. HUNTER M.A.

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Notes on

Sites of Indian Villages

IN THE

Townships of North and South Orillia

(Simcoe County)

BY

ANDREW F HUNTER M A

TORONTO
WARWICK BRO'S & RUTTER
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Archaeological Map of the Orillia Township (North Orillia and part of North Orillia). The numbers of the sites on the map correspond with the numbers given to them in the text.

INDIAN VILLAGE SITES IN NORTH AND SOUTH ORILLIA TOWNSHIPS.

The settled parts of both townships are hilly. The ends of two long ridges come out of the adjoining townships along the west side,—the one out of Medonte into North Orillia, the other out of Oro into South Orillia. Besides these, a long ridge runs through both townships, near Lake Couchiching and parallel with it, for several miles. This prominent line of high ground, which takes a north-easterly direction, is known locally in North Orillia as "The Ridge." It extends as far as the ninth concession of that township, and owing to its isolated position it is quite a conspicuous feature in the landscape. It deserves our special attention, as it is in a sense the barrier that holds back the waters of Couchiching from pouring directly over to Georgian Bay, deflecting them by the Severn River.

At the town line between the north and south townships there is a "break where "The Ridge" in North Orillia is cut off from the high ground in South Orillia. Branches of Silver Creek take rise in this gap, becoming fair sized streams, and the Midland Railway utilizes it for a passage. Village sites of the early Huron period, some of them quite populous, are found generally along "The Ridge," but are more numerous in the vicinity of the Silver Creek openings than elsewhere.

The "Algonquin" shoreline girdles these hills or ridges, as elsewhere, and this extinct shoreline is marked on the accompanying map to give the altitudes of the different parts of the townships. The "Algonquin" is a strong shoreline everywhere but in the Orillia townships it is even stronger than elsewhere. The main cutting is very distinct and about sixty feet lower the base of the submerged filling also becomes a well developed shoreline. The term as used in this report applies to the main cutting. This main strand of the shoreline in the vicinity of Silver Creek attains an altitude of 875 feet above sea level or 155 feet above Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching.

North Orillia is a large township but parts of it are still covered with original forest. It has, accordingly been found unnecessary to show more than a portion of this township on the accompanying map.

The Village Sites.

The list of 34 sites (12 in North Orillia and 22 in South Orillia) may not contain one half the sites that will ultimately be recorded for these townships. It is necessary to emphasize that I make no claim for completeness or perfection of the lists, especially that for the north township. But the sites I give are the more conspicuous ones, and will lay a foundation for future work by showing the lines of early occupation and travel. Even these show evidences of a considerable population in the early Huron epoch—the first half of the seventeenth century.

The plan followed here being the same as in earlier reports the task of collecting the data and its attending difficulties have been sufficiently dwelt upon in those reports. In the present one, equal pains with those previously issued have been taken to make the observations correct and the features described may be verified in most cases by everyone for himself.

The Huron occupation of the region now under consideration, in relation to its physiography, was not different from that of the townships previously examined. The Hurons kept to the high ground or ridges as we found them doing elsewhere. The ground in the south part of South Orillia was not well adapted for occupation by Hurons and their allies. It is too stony and gravelly and the small ridges there are too abrupt and narrow for their settlements. The high ground above the Algonquin shorelines in the north half of South Orillia according to the remains that have been found was their favorite habitat. Besides this Brough's Creek and its branches falling into Shingle Bay made a wide obstructive marsh.

Like the other townships of this district, each of which has an important feature of some kind the Orillia townships have one of their own not less interesting than the others. They contain the line of contact between Huron tribes and those named Algonquin in the Jesuit Relations. Some of the village sites show differences of their own when compared with villages in other townships known to be distinctly Huron. Hence I am of the opinion that the former were the villages of the Algonquins. There may have been some overlapping of the Arendarronons (the most easterly Huron tribe) with the Algonquins, so that some sites belonged to one and some to the other. And as the sites here as elsewhere do not all belong to the same year or even to the same period one may have followed the other over the same ground. Further study of the sites will perhaps reveal some movement of this kind. But in any case the sites which I am inclined to call the Algonquin sites have distinct characters and might almost be said to supersede over the Huron sites in the Orillia townships.

The Indians who inhabited the sites which show the differences just referred to when compared with those of known Huron sites show marked development along certain lines. The more conspicuous of the differences are as follows:—

1 Disks. There is an abundance of stone and pottery disks. These are found in small numbers on some known Huron sites but not in such profusion as we find in the present instances.

2. Individual burials. A patch of single graves is to be found at every one of the sites in question. This is unlike the mortuary practices of the true Hurons who practiced scaffold burial combined with bonepits. In most cases, however, the patch of single graves is accompanied by a bonepit or two.

3. Highly decorated pipes and pottery. In the ornamentation of clay pipes the pictorial art had a more extensive development in the Orillia townships than in the townships farther west where the true Hurons were located. We may safely conclude this ornamentation was due to Algonquin influence, whenever it is found on Huron sites. It is not to be understood that modern Algonquins necessarily show a continuation of the skill of their ancestors or any trace of it. It was the Algonquin-speaking tribes of three centuries ago to which our remarks apply.

4. Bone needles, awls, etc. The greater abundance of these on the sites called Algonquin, by us, may have been due to better supplied hunting grounds than the Hurons possessed. The latter tribes were more agricultural in their pursuits, and more populous.

5. Flints. These are more abundant than on true Huron sites.

6. The Algonquins showed remarkable ingenuity in forming arrow heads out of pieces of brass from worn out brass kettles.

Some of the features just mentioned resemble those of some sites in the district near Balsam Lake, for the descriptions of which we are indebted to Geo. E. Laidlaw. The Orillia townships are not far distant from some of the sites which Mr. Laidlaw has described and the points of similarity of some sites are therefore not to be wondered at. His descriptions in former Archæological Reports bring out well the points of contrast between a proportion of the sites in his district near Balsam Lake, and true Huron sites.

For locating the position of Ste. Elizabeth the mission of the Jesuits among the Algonquins of whom we have been speaking, Ducreux's map, although it gives this mission, fails to help us much as there is a confusion of North River with Severn River and the entire omission of one of them as I previously pointed out. It is possible however that Ste. Elizabeth was in the distinctly defined group of villages near Silver Creek. In townships previously examined we found evidence to show that a mission often belonged to a district marked off or isolated by physical features, and the one in question is so distinctly defined as to lead us to make this conjecture with a fair degree of probability. On the other hand there is a group of sites north of Bass Lake partly in Medonte township occupying a similar position with reference to North River that the Silver Creek group does with reference to Lake Couchiching and the Severn, and it will be impossible to settle the question definitely without taking into account the group partly situated in Medonte.

European relics are abundant in the Orillia townships and this is one of their chief characteristics. Iron or white metal relics have been definitely reported from 26 of the 34 sites, or 76 per cent of the whole. In this respect the Orillias agree with the northerly tier of townships—Tiny, Tay and Medonte.

Some people have claimed that Cahiague, the Huron town visited by Champlain, was situated near Lake Couchiching and was perhaps

the Mount Slaven site. The improbability of this site having been Cahiague is discussed in the description of the site itself

Burials.

There are eight bone pits reported, viz. at Nos. 6 7 and 10 North; and at Nos. 3, 4 (2), and 15 (2), South. Two pits each are reported for the two last mentioned sites. Patches of single graves or individual burials occur at even a larger proportion of sites than in townships hitherto examined in our passage through the district of the old Hurons. Figures thus based on aggregate results afford us reliable and instructive data. In short, we have found the practice of burying in single graves where we locate the Algonquins; and we may, therefore conclude that the single burial grounds in the other townships (such as No 41, Oro), were due to the presence or influence of Algonquins. Pit and scaffold burial was evidently the rule among Hurons.

Trails.

In these townships as elsewhere, the Indian had his trails in accord with the hills, valleys and streams following their natural order and positions. The white man pays but little attention to these circumstances and has almost forgotten to take them into account in his reflections on Indian days and ways except in one or two cases notably the Coldwater Road. The Town of Orillia, like most other towns of our fellow Caucasians, is built at the meeting-place of several Indian trails. It is or was in the days of the forest and the red men the centre point of branching routes. These were for the most part not canoe portages but forest trails pursued by the Indians when journeying without canoes. It may be expedient to take these trails in order passing around the various trails as around the spokes of a wheel.

The Muskoka Road. From the abundance of relics and sites found along the high ground in South Orillia, and thence along The Ridges in North Orillia as far as the ninth concession of the latter and beyond it is evident that a trail followed the ridge parallel with Lake Couchiching but inland some distance from the lakeshore. The writer has frequently pointed out in connection with other townships that the ridges, which were wooded with hardwood chiefly invariably had trails along them. The low flat land contained swamps or thickets and were less penetrable for walkers. The present instance is no exception to the rule. From Orillia town to Washago the Muskoka Road opened prior to 1855 along the east flanks of the ridges and also parallel with Lake Couchiching, is the modern representative of the old forest trail. The present road however runs perhaps a little nearer the lake than did the old trail itself yet the two follow the same course. This trail was in use down to modern times. The Rev Dr Gray and other early settlers testify to the existence of the trail here within their remembrance. There were also portages to the Severn River and these crossed the Muskoka Road or trail to Washago.

The Coldwater Road. This was a long portage from the Narrows or rather from Lake Couchiching at the point where Orillia town now stands, to Coldwater on Matchedash Bay its length being fourteen

mains. In 1830, when Sir John Colborne, the Governor of Upper Canada, collected the Chippewa tribes of the district into a reserve here extending along the portage, the original trail was cleared out as a road for vehicles, and it has remained an important highway to this day. Northwestwardly from the fourth line (S. Orillia), at the Orillia Cemetery, this road now runs through flat ground. But there is a conspicuous bar of gravel and sand, or old lake ridge, across this valley or channel only 15 or 20 rods north of the present surveyed road. This bar would carry the original trail. A similar remark applies to the crossing of another channel nearer Bass Lake. Elsewhere the present course for the road is almost identical with the trail.

The Huron trail out of Oro to Orillia town site. This trail, which is the one Champlain evidently followed, is now represented by the Oro Road. Although the latter follows a straight course along surveyed lines, it carries a large traffic over the same route, the lines of transportation for white men being almost the same as those for their red predecessors as in so many other places.

The Atherley Road. This evidently follows the old trail from Orillia town to the "Narrows" used when the aborigines travelled without canoes.

CATALOGUE OF SITES—NORTH ORILLIA

I

On the east half of lot 21, concession 5. This place is far down the North River. Cranberries and huckleberries grow plentifully in the neighborhood, and have attracted the aborigines thither from time immemorial. Surface rocks make their appearance a little way off (viz. about lot 22) and extend northward indefinitely. In the summer of 1902 Fred Longhurst, the owner of this lot, plowed up an Indian's skeleton and an iron tomahawk.

II

On the east half of lot 11, concession 2, Jay Walker. This site occupies a hill and numerous relics have been found including iron tomahawks. Flint arrowheads are plentiful.

III.

On the west half of lot 6, concession 2, Chas. Clark. They have found numerous relics and fragments especially in their garden, but the site has been partly obliterated by cultivation. It extends into lot 7 formerly owned by the Drinkwater Brothers. The land hereabout is flat, but a little way east drops at one of the "Algonquin" shore lines.

IV

On the east half of lot 2, concession 1, A. Margratt. On the south side of North River numerous remains have been found. Chas. H. Moffatt once lived here and found numerous relics of the usual kinds, but it is noteworthy that his family found no relics of Euro-

pean make. They found many good flints here, but pottery fragments were not so abundant as at their present place in South Orillia. This was Jacob Powley's homestead in former years and many surface pits (i.e. empty caches or perhaps single graves) were to be seen at that period.

V

On the east half of lot 1 concession 2. R. J. S. Drinkwater. His father the late Capt. John Drinkwater settled here in 1832. They have found many iron tomahawks arrowheads and stone axes on this farm and north of Mr Drinkwater's house some pottery fragments showing occupation. Mr Drinkwater has been very observant in matters of this kind but although he has found numerous relics he has given them all away without making a collection of his own. This locality was once a favorite place for beavers especially on a small stream running into North River here. The place is surrounded by streams and it is somewhat protected as the site for a village.

VI

On the east half of lot 2 concession 4. Before the year 1870 Edward Turner discovered a bone-pit here, near the camps. He was following a path through the woods when he noticed a depression in the ground and having seen such burial places before he resolved to dig into it. On doing this he found the deposit of human bones. He also found in the pit three brass kettles one of these contained the moccasined toes of a squaw which had been preserved by the copper oxide but this relic decomposed when exposed to the air. According to Mr Turner's description of the pit, it contained hundreds of skeletons. The soil is very sandy at the place. The pit is half way west in lot 2 and on a low ridge, along the crest of which the above-mentioned path followed. F. W. Fraser of Toronto who took part in the opening of this pit in or about the year 1885 was the first person to give me information of it. There were various single graves found around about the large bone-pit. In one of the isolated graves there were three skulls one of which was supposed to be that of a European person though with what certainty of proof I have been unable to find. Altogether there were some thirteen kettles found in the pit and some wampum. In the single graves were found a clay pipe a stone pipe and an iron tool.

VII

On the east half of lot 1 concession 4. John Ego. This lot was formerly occupied by the late Thomas Campbell. Some years ago a large bone pit was found on the southeast face of a hill about half a mile west of Silver Creek. It was dug out at the time. Mr J. H. Hammond of Orillia, who gave me the particulars of this pit, also informed me that the soil at the place is sandy and would be easy for the aborigines to dig with their roughly made wooden tools.

VIII

On the south west quarter of lot 2, concession 5 Archibald Fyfe This site is on the northwest side of Silver Creek and close to it. Soil sandy It occupies a hillside Mr Fyfe has found numerous remains here including stone axes clay pipes beads etc.

IX

On the southwest quarter of lot 1 concession 5 Geo. Greer (who lives upon east half lot 2). The site is on a sandy plain on the north side of Silver Creek Iron tomahawks were found at or near this site, and Wm Rouse, junr of Mitchell Square found a clay pipe of the pinched face pattern which is a distinctively Huron or Tobacco Nation form belonging to the early French period or earlier Mr Rouse also found a part of the blade of a rapier Mr Greer has found besides iron tomahawks a steel knife flat wampum beads pottery disk and clay pipe bowls (Huron forms). There are or were some artificial depressions in the surface of the ground at this site.

X

2

On the west half of lot 3, concession 6 William S. Brennan On the ridge at the rear of the dwelling-house, considerable quantities of pottery fragments and other remains are found The pottery here was highly decorated Mr Armson, a relative of Mr Brennan while once excavating for the foundation of the house, found a large bone pit almost underneath the front door

XI

On the west half of lot 5, concession 8 Robert W Holmes. This site is a patch on the summit or brow of the Algonquin shoreline and consisted of ashbeds, with pottery fragments some brass arrow heads etc. It had a defensive position Mr Holmes has found iron tomahawks (French make) by dozens and these are also to be found on other farms about here

XII

On the east half of lot 6, concession 9 Charles Brailey This site is near a small stream and is in a line with the east end of "The Ridge" and a nice cove or bay of Lake Couchiching the head of which is at the end of the eleventh line The camps are about three quarters of a mile from Lake Couchiching There were ashbeds and empty caches or surface pits In the ashbeds they found in former years more frequently than in late years, brass arrowheads bone needles clam shells etc. and in the vicinity iron tomahawks (French pattern) and stone skinners.

CATALOGUE OF SITES—SOUTH ORILLIA

i

On the south half of lot 1 concession 1 Henry W Smith Here was once the Indian Agency on the Coldwater Road and at an early date a clearing had been made in connection with it in which the Indians grew corn Remains of this have been found A site of the early Huron period also yielding some relics of various kinds—stone axes pottery fragments, etc—has been found half way east in this farm but no iron relics A human skeleton was found at the place This site extends a little way into lot 2 (Chas H Moffatt's) but is a distinct site from the one at Mr Moffatt's house and at some distance from it.

ii.

In the west half of lot 2, concession 1 Frank Nelson. Some camps occur at a place on this farm at or near the boundary of Mr Gose land (lot 3) Pottery fragments were abundant and human face pipes in considerable numbers were found in the refuse many years ago before the place had been much cultivated

iii.

On the north east quarter of lot 2, concession 1 Charles H. Moffatt (Mrs. Nelson also occupies part of this lot). An important village site occurs in the extreme north east corner of the lot, covering five or six acres It includes Mr Moffatt's garden and extends beyond it, crossing the boundary into lot 1 It also extends across the road here (second line) into the lots of the second concession. There is a small stream through the adjoining lot 1 and the Indian remains have been found along the south side of the stream The Indian cabins were placed along the banks of the stream chiefly the village being thus long and narrow and accordingly not palisaded. As no iron or other European relics have been found at this site it probably belonged to an earlier period than that in which there was a misunderstanding with the Iroquois, and hence, there was no great need of palisading There are numerous refuse heaps here one of them being two feet thick and showing that the place was occupied for a long time Mr Moffatt has lived here since 1900 and as this village site is near the house his family has paid close attention to the numerous articles that have turned up from time to time Bone needles and awls were uncommonly plentiful some twenty having been found Other articles were —Wampum beads (bone and stone, but no shell wampum), a dozen stone axes, clam shell fragments bears teeth (some of them with holes for suspension as bangles) teeth of beavers and porcupines thirty or more stone and pottery disks many flints a bone arrowhead corn grains, etc The pottery fragments found here are highly decorated one of the pieces showing a human face as part of its decorations The pipe fragments of this site well repay a careful study The clay specimens show an uncommon development of the pictorial art, perhaps not even so much as a single plain pipe having been found but all being decorated Here is a partial list of some of the pipes —

Human effigy pipes in considerable numbers, several of the corset or flared mouth pattern a square mouth specimen (modification of the corset pattern), numerous specimens of the belt pattern (one of them showing a modification of the basal line of dots into dashes) an effigy pipe (the bowl being the open mouth of a snake similar to the figure in First Archeological Report, p. 23). The fragments of stone pipes found show also attempts at animal and human designs. At some little distance from this site a bonepit was once found. It probably belonged to this site although it is unsafe to conclude definitely because there are other sites within moderate distances of the pit. In 1892, or thereabout, Mr T. F. Milne, who then taught the Marchmont school made some little examination of this pit, but found no remains of any importance. There were no whole skulls, and the other bones were saturated with water or otherwise decayed. Altogether, the information gleaned from this pit has been too insignificant to add much to our knowledge; yet the pit may have been opened many years ago as the late Wm. Smith who lived on the next farm north (father of the present occupant Henry W Smith) was aware of its existence.

IV

At the extreme south west corner of lot 3, concession 2 beside Bass Lake. William Jackson. On a terrace in Mr Jackson's field the usual pottery fragments and other relics are found. Gouges and arrowheads were numerous. Also on the higher hill eastward some remains appeared. Beside the road which passes along the shore of Bass Lake here some of the immense boulders have mortars on their tops. No iron or other relics of European make are reported for this site, although some are said to have been found in one of the bone pits. Part of this site occurs over the line of the adjoining farm viz. the west half of lot 4 now occupied by Julius Crockford. In the latter farm there was a large hole in the clay hill supposed to be the place where the clay for pottery was obtained as pottery fragments were numerous round about. This hole, the late Richard Rix, who formerly occupied the farm filled in when he found it. George Rix now of Orillia town formerly occupied the farm of Mr Jackson. On the same farm some distance north from the easterly end of Bass Lake R. J. S. Drinkwater discovered a bonepit when the place was in woods. The date of finding this pit was September 8 1868 as Mr Drinkwater finds by his diary which he was kind enough to look up at my request. His knowledge of the surface indications of such pits he had obtained from his grandfather the Rev. Geo Hallen of Penetanguishene. A year or two later while a camp meeting was in progress beside Bass Lake some of those who attended the meeting dug out the contents of the bonepit which Mr Drinkwater had left undisturbed. Its position was near the Coldwater road. The late Capt. Peter Lyon who saw it at that time informed me that it had a diameter of about twelve feet. Some brass kettles, clay pipes etc. are reported to have been found in it. When the curiosity-seekers dug out this bonepit at the time of the camp meeting, a doctor who was present put together the bones of a skeleton for the edification of the spectators, thus combining anatomical recreation with divinity. A second and smaller bonepit was found near the larger one.

v

On the west half of lot 5, concession 1 The Basil R. Rowe homestead now occupied by Chas H Rowe. The site is on the lower ground near Bass Lake, and extends across two fields. Pottery fragments pipes etc were found at it, especially a number of years ago. Many stone skinners and French (iron) tomahawks have been found all over the adjoining fields. Dr Tache got some of the relics from this site when he carried on his archaeological explorations some forty years ago and these are probably in the Laval museum in Quebec city

vi

On the west half of lot 1 concession 4. Edward Turner He has found a few relics of the usual kinds but the village was small Iron tomahawks have been found in the neighborhood of the site, but none immediately at the place itself

vii

On the east half of lot 1 concession 4 Richard Vandersburg sr This place is situated on the east side of a part of Silver Creek one of the branches of North River There have been extensive ash beds and refuse heaps mixed with clay pottery and pipe fragments but the ground is all cultivated now Archibald Fyfe of North Orillia, once owned this farm and lived on it for a length of time He found various relics while here. Edward Turner now owner of the west half also cultivated this land and observed the remains. Iron tomahawks have been found in the neighborhood of the site.

viii

On the west half of lot 1 concession 6. Mrs. Emma McPhie and family who occupy this land find in their field south of the residence an important village site, the distance being not far to Mud Lake which is also partly on their land The late Alex McPhie found many relics here including a few iron tomahawks and his brother J W McPhie now of Epworth B C also made a collection at this site These were purchased in 1884 by Mr George W Dryden of Whitby Ont in whose possession they are still preserved In reply to my enquiries Mr Dryden informs me the collection he obtained from the McPhie brothers contains ten or twelve pipeheads (clay) some of which represent the following —Wolf owl snake frog and human faces. There are also some half dozen iron axes beads wampum bone needles, stone disks, etc. Mrs. McPhie's sons are close observers of this village site at which there are numerous deep ash heaps. It extends into the land of Mr Jesse Ryerson (west half of lot 2). It is worthy of note, that arrowheads made from pieces of brass (probably pieces of old kettles) are quite numerous here, and some of them were very neatly formed. Stone and pottery disks were numerous.

ix.

On lot one concession 7 George Annis. This lot is broken by Lake Couchiching at the shore of which high terraces of former lake

margins appear On one of these terraces, Mr. Annis has found pottery fragments, pipes, iron tomahawks, etc. There is higher ground beside the site so it was evidently not palisaded The occupants of other farms adjoining this one have found stone and iron axes on their lands, showing this was a rendezvous in early times, as indeed we might expect from the fact that there is a curve in the shore of Lake Couchiching at this place

X.

On Chief's Island, Lake Couchiching, a few remains have been found. This island has been a rendezvous for Algonquins, both ancient and modern. After the exchange of the Coldwater Tract for the Rama Reserve in 1839, this island became the headquarters of the Chippewas for a time, as its name implies. Relics from an island in Lake Couchiching (probably this island) are in the museum of the University of Toronto marked thus:—"169, Two large circular silver brooches one small brooch, three silver buckles, two horn spoons, two small hawk bells, etc., from a grave on one of the islands in Lake Couchiching. T. W. Harris." (Compare these relics with those from Present Island. Report on Tiny, p. 21). See also Sir Daniel Wilson's article on "Cranial Types" in *Canadian Journal*, second series, vol. 2 (1857), pp. 406-435 for measurements of Chippewa skulls from Lake Couchiching.

Some reefs on Cedar Island, in Lake Couchiching, are sometimes miscalled the old "Indian Fort" by a few people, but they are the work of the ice of the lake at a former higher level

XI.

On the east half of lot 9, concession I. William Harvie. Many camps where ashbeds were as much as four feet thick were to be seen here strewn with pottery fragments, pipe fragments, etc. Iron tomahawks (early French make) and other relics have been found. The site covers three or four acres, and is on the opposite side of the valley of the same stream as the next site and upward of a quarter of a mile from it

XII.

On the west half of lot 10, concession I. David T. Strathearn. Mr. Strathearn or found pottery fragments and other relics at a place near a water supply as long ago as 1859 or earlier. At later dates also other camps strewn with pottery fragments, etc. have come to light on the farm. The relics gathered included two steel knives. About 1888 Mr. Strathearn found a large mealing stone here (or at the next site) but, unfortunately, it was broken in removal. Three large ash heaps, or possibly more, are still quite distinct, notwithstanding the effects of cultivation

XIII.

On the west half of lot 13, concession I. This site is on the north bank of Brough's Creek, beside what was known as Edmundson's or Salter's Mill Pond. (This mill pond was broken down by the flood

of June 5th, 1890, and has not been rebuilt). Before 1882, when I first became acquainted with the site, it had been ploughed two or three times, and remains of camps exposed, strewn with pottery and pipe fragments, and other relics including iron tomahawks. At that time the occupant was Richard Frost.

XIV.

On the north-west quarter of lot 10, concession 3, Thomas Day. Near a stream which flows into Shingle Bay. John Sandidge, now of Magnetawan, lived formerly on the part of this farm on which were remains. During the time he lived here copper kettles or pieces of them were found abundantly also iron axes of early French make. Geo. McKinnell, of Orillia town obtained twelve of these French axes from this site. Two of them are now preserved in the Grierson Museum, in Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Richard O. Bell, Oro Station, obtained two French axes here on which the triple marks were unusually well defined and large, each tomahawk having a distinct pattern. Large ash heaps, mixed with broken pottery, pipeheads, etc. occur here. Mr J. H. Hammond Orillia giving his recollections of the place in the early seventies says: "It was on the south side of Barrie road about a mile and a half out of Orillia on the edge of the old mill pond between the road and the mill pond. This plot or site would be two or three acres in extent, and it was on sandy soil. In the field where the village site was a great many remains of the Indians such as broken pottery, pipes and broken pipe heads, skinning stones and quantities of ash heaps and remains of fires were scattered over the ground. The pipes were ornamented by a sort of basket-work pattern around the head of the pipe and near the top. Some of the pipes had stems others only the pipe head with a hole for a stem. The skinning stones were all of a green stone different from any around here, and were all chisel-edged. I recollect two grooved stones. These had a chisel edge and were large about nine inches long, a half to three-quarters of an inch thick and about three inches wide with a depression around the centre apparently for the purpose of holding the handle. The soil of this village site is red marl and it is on a level bench about twelve feet above the level of the water of the dam. (The dam in the stream here is known as Thomson's Mill Pond and formerly as Dallas', from Fred Dallas the earliest settler at the place.) About 300 yards to the west of the village site is the cemetery with which it was probably connected. This burial ground consisted of single graves situated on the Cuppage farm (north east quarter of lot 10 concession 2). Nearly all or quite all of the graves have been rifled of their contents by curiosity seekers. From all that can be learned I regard it as a noteworthy archaeological feature. In company with Dr Jas. N. Harvie of Orillia, I made a visit of inspection to this aboriginal cemetery on June 24, 1889. A tiny stream emptying into the larger stream divided the burial ground into two parts. About thirty holes in the surface of the ground (presumably graves) were to be seen on one side and about ten on the other. A tree whose stump showed about 115 annual rings, and had been fifteen years chopped, had grown out of one of the holes, thus

showing a minimum age of 130 years for the cemetery. Yet, this is much less than the actual age of the graves, as some French tomahawks furnish evidence that they were much older, and belonged to the seventeenth century. The ground at the place is sandy while surrounding parts are clay and gravel. A little west (not above a quarter of a mile) and slightly higher is the Algonquin raised shoreline. The surface of each grave was depressed below the level of the ground by sinkage probably; and thus each grave could be seen. It is now close to Thomson's Mill Pond, but at the time of its use by the Indians it would be at the edge of a swamp. It resembles the Coleman cemetery in Oro (No. 41), and belongs to the type peculiar to the early Algonquins and perhaps, also, to the Arendaeronons the Huron tribe, who were nearest the Algonquins and were most influenced by their customs. The graves are said to have yielded a few pipes (chiefly clay) tomahawks (stone and iron), pottery fragments and stone disks.

XV

The Mount Slaven Site.

Indian remains have been found quite extensively in what is known as the Mount Slaven Annex. This is really a part of Orillia town, but the land is not yet within the corporation limits. On both sides of the Mount Slaven Creek numerous remains have been found. For the most part the plot in question is a large burial ground. Whether it was the regular camping ground of the Indians who buried so extensively here, or whether their camps were at some little distance, is not very evident. But it is certain that many ashbeds mixed with the usual pottery fragments, etc. occur here as well as graves, and the probability is that the aboriginal occupants lived right here and buried their friends close to their dwellings. The remains have been found within the space enclosed by the Fourth Line of South Orillia and O'Brien Street on the west and east respectively and by Mississaga and Lavicount Streets on the south and north respectively. Within this rectangular block is enclosed a space of about 38 acres. Graves and other remains cover about half of this area, which is now partly covered with houses and gardens. Placed as it was on lower ground than anywhere else around it, and occupying both sides of the creek the sheltered position of the site would make it a desirable wintering spot, and I incline to think it was used for this purpose for a long period. The mixed character of the relics found here tends to confirm this view. For example French iron axes of the pattern belonging to the seventeenth century as well as pipe tomahawks (steel) have been found on the site. The latter are not found on early sites, but occur on recent camping grounds, and they are to be regarded as belonging not to the French period of Canada but to the early British period that is after 1759. It is probable this camping ground was used in both periods. The settlers in the Mount Slaven suburb find many iron and steel tomahawks of both the aforementioned kinds.

Besides the series of isolated or single graves, which have been thoroughly ransacked for relics by curiosity seekers during the past

forty years, there were at least two communal ossuaries or bonepits. The first of these was found about the year 1870, on or about lot No 212, south of Mary Street, and thirty or forty yards from the creek before mentioned. Very few buildings were in that part of the town at the time. A pine tree had partly grown over the pit. A large number of skulls and other human bones were found in it.

A smaller communal grave came to light in September 1902. Mr. Harry Willey was levelling up his lot on the north side of Mary street, and came across a number of skeletons, ten of which were together the skulls occupying the small space of two square yards. Particulars of the discovery appeared, at some length, in the *Orillia Packet* of October 2, 1902. The character of the deposit of bones indicates that the communal idea underlay the placing of them together. At a former time some beads and tomahawks were found with a few other skeletons some yards nearer the street; and again, in August, 1903, Mr Willey found an earthen pot (Indian make, complete) beside some other skeletons.

As to the question of what kind of Indians inhabited this site Mr C. A. Hirschfelder once informed me that he made openings in a few of the single graves some years ago, and obtained some European relics. He concluded that the burials he saw had been of later Algonkin or gun. On the other hand Mr Lawrence Hayden Toronto stated to me his opinion that this was a Huron site giving as his reason the occurrence of a communal grave, out of which he took no less than 38 tibiæ (shin bones). This implies that the communal bone pit was a Huron institution only. Perhaps both gentlemen are correct in holding these divergent opinions as I have mentioned above the probability that the site was occupied by Indians at widely different periods. Mr Hayden communicated to me some facts bearing upon these burials as follows —

"The ossuary, or rather series of ossuaries found about quarter of a mile west of the Orillia Town Hall contained copper kettles remains of blades of knives pipes pottery as well as stone beads etc. So any village in the vicinity of these ossuaries must have been populous and post French (that is after the French arrived in the country and not after they had quitted the district when the Hurons dispersed). Hatchets and other remains are frequently found scattered within a pretty large circumference of which these ossuaries might be taken as a centre."

Some persons have advanced the theory that this site was Cahiagua the town from which Champlain set out in 1615 on his expedition to the Iroquois. The characters of this site forbid the theory even if we had not Champlain's explicit statement, that Cahiague was three leagues from Lake Conchiching. In the first place the relics found here indicate that the site was inhabited at widely different times, which would account for the large extent of ground strewn with remains. Yet large as the site is it is doubtful whether it could be the spot on which the 200 cabins of Cahiague were placed. And still further it lacks a defensive position which was essential for a large village or town like Cahiague. It occupies flat land with higher ground on two sides of it, and is on both sides of the Creek. A position of this kind was anything but defensive according to our

knowledge of what other fortified villages are like in the matter of position. The site was probably Algonquin both early and modern and not Huron

While preparing these descriptions of sites, I was favored by Mr. J. H. Hammond of Orillia with the perusal of some notes on this site, written by him to preserve some record of this place, as its present condition scarcely admits of making a definite account owing to the presence of so many buildings. Mr Hammond has granted my request to publish the following extracts, a favor that will be appreciated by students of archæology and history generally as there are but few left who witnessed the exhumation of the most important part of the remains about thirty years ago. Mr Hammond, whose remarks on the orientation of the burials, and other mortuary practices of the Indians who deposited the remains of their dead here, are very interesting, says—"In the early seventies as a schoolboy, I spent the greater part of some Saturdays and holidays with my playmates in excavating Indian graves on the lots north of the extension of Mississaga street on Mount Slaven near Orillia Town. Our schoolmaster (Samuel McIlvaine) urged us to make all available collections of any objects such as beads, wampum and the like. He was making a collection and utilized our muscles in furthering that object. It was then called the Indian graveyard. These excursions lasted over three years and were pursued by us every convenient Saturday during the summer seasons.

"The graves were single and extended in (four) lines from the bank of the creek toward the hillside at the Coldwater Road in a north westerly direction. All of the bodies were buried in a sitting posture facing the east or morning sun. In every case we came on the skull first. The hands and arms were always in front of and crossing the leg bones.

"In only one case were there more than one body in a single hole. In this case the bodies were laid flat, head and feet regularly. This hole was oval about fifteen feet long and seven or eight feet wide and placed between the second and third lines of graves twenty or thirty yards from the bank of the creek. In this big grave we found a large quantity of wampum about the size of a ten cent piece with a drilled hole in the centre of each piece, some round blue beads, and some red beads of a bugle shape an inch to an inch and a half long pierced like the others. Also a quantity of flint arrowheads and spear heads. No iron axes that I remember though we had plenty of them from the neighborhood.

"In only one case was any kettle found and this was southeast of the big grave on a level place about half way down to the water edge. It was upside down and under it was a large quantity of thigh bones which were in no case broken. These had been boiled or were in the process of being boiled when the kettle was upset and the fire put out by the liquid in the pot. On top of this pot a big pine stub was standing and the main root of the stub ran down in the earth until it reached the bottom of the kettle and then grew around the brim of it. The stub would be at least two feet through and we had to cut through the big root to free the kettle before we could get it out of the hole. Underneath the kettle and bones, as above

described were the remains of the fire, some of the wood partly burnt, some burnt to coal and some to ashes. This kettle was brass, and had holes for the bail. The rim was flared, and was of the same material as the pot itself. It was about two and a half feet across the top and about twenty inches deep. The bail holes were about an inch and a half in diameter, and about half an inch from the edge of the pot. Inside of the pot was a collection of green matter hard and sticking fast on the pot when we found it. The surfaces of the bones were of a brown yellow color, no marks upon them. Underneath the kettle the ashes were bright and clean, no trace of any rotted flesh only pieces of charred wood and coal and ashes underneath the bones.

"The graves were in a succession of lines about twenty feet apart each way, and apparently followed a fixed plan of burial. There were at least four lines of graves, (possibly more) and they extended through the sand (a coarse grey and well drained sand) to the gravel under the hill at the Coldwater Road. The ground was nearly level having a slight upward trend toward the Coldwater Road or Trail a distance of a quarter of a mile or more. The ground had at one time been cleared of trees, for the trees were nearly all of one size viz., about a foot through, while the woods on both sides of the graveyard were larger and contained pine trees some large others smaller. There were a few butternut trees along the edges of the graveyard but none on it. The spring creek which ran to the east and south had cut a channel from fifteen to twenty feet deep below the level of the graveyard and it was at this time a running stream all the year round.

"One of the graves that we excavated was of an exceptional character as the bones were of an enormous size. The skull was intact, with the exception of a break in the middle of the crown. This was two or three inches long and about half an inch wide apparently made by a blow with a blunt axe or pointed stone. The cut ran from the back toward the front of the skull and was widest at the middle of the cut tapering to a point both ways. The lower jawbone of this body was in place and I tried it over my own head and face and it passed clear of my face without touching it at any place. Our schoolmaster measured the thighbone of this body on his own leg and it extended beyond his knee several inches and he was a tall man, too. We found in this grave a quantity of hair black and long apparently attached to what we then thought to be a scalp. This was on the knees of the body. I also got out of this grave a black amulet shaped like a bird which had apparently hung on the breast of the man in life. It was of stone, polished and perfect. We also got some flint arrowheads out of this grave, but nothing else that I can recollect."

XVI.

On the west half of lot 6 concession 5, in the north and highest part of the Town of Orillia numerous remains have been found along the brow of the Algonquin shoreline. The relics found on this high ground site belong more distinctly to the early Huron period than do those of the Mount Slaven site. The Huron forest

trail appears to have passed along the brow of the ridge here. The following list of items of the remains found is only a partial one.—In the woods on a lot belonging to Lawrence Heyden, Toronto, east of the upper end of Peter street, partly within the town limits, there were found several hatchets. At another place in the vicinity of the same numerous pottery fragments were found at a short distance from a spring as Mr. C. H. Hale informs us. On a lot on Matchedash street, sold by Lawrence Heyden to the Rev. Mr. Creighton, there were found on clearing off the surface stones, a human skeleton with a hatchet (French, of the early Huron period) lying beside it. In the spring of 1903 F. Webber, lot 25, North Borland street found a string of wampum (55 beads) while digging a celery trench in his garden. C. E. C. Newton, Esq., found in his garden on Borland Street, near the High School in August, 1902, a fine brass crucifix, 5 inches long and well preserved. In the *Orillia Packet*, of July 16 1903, A. C. Osborne describes a St. Bartholomew medal bearing the date August 24 1572 which W. J. Pawley found near where the Coldwater road ascends the ridge. All these finds and many other similar ones in the highest part of the town indicate an extensive occupation and travel here in the early period.

XVII

On the old Asylum ground now the Park in the town of Orillia (parts of lots 7 and 8 concession 5). This was a prehistoric site or landing as well as a noted campingground for Indians as late as the time when the first settlers came to Orillia. Iron hatchets have been and are being turned up.

XVIII

On the west half of lot 21 concession 1 William Anderson. Members of Mr. Anderson's family have found stone axes, clay pipes, pottery fragments, an iron tomahawk, etc., at a place near their boathouse. One of the pipes was of the belt pattern, an early Huron type. The site is at the west end of the portage across the neck of land at Carthew's Bay. The Indians use this portage to the present day, the trail passing across the neck on the north side of the swale which occurs there. Modern Indians carry their canoes across this neck of about 25 rods rather than paddle round the point (Eight Mile Point), a distance of more than a mile around and also exposed to winds. The evidences at hand also shows that Indians at a very early period preferred to do the same.

Local newspapers of June 1888 mentioned the finding of a human skeleton (supposed to be an Indian's) with coins of about the year 1800 at what was called Cameron's Point two miles to the eastward of this portage. The action of the waves had washed the skeleton partly out of the bank where it had been buried. It proved however to be the remains of an old trader who carried on his traffic among the Indians at an early date. When he died they buried him in his old butternut canoe. There were brass buttons on his coat by which the remains were identified.

xix.

In the central part of lot 12, concession 3. Now the grounds of the Provincial Asylum for Idiots, near Orillia Town. The position of the place is at the north west part of Shingle Bay, where the land rises high above the lake level. There was a landing here in the time of the aborigines. The late John Burkitt lived here in former years and found numerous relics especially many pottery fragments etc. Mr Burkitt's name appears in early Assessment Rolls (1858 and later) as owner of the whole of lot 12. And Mr C. H. Hale informs me this was known as Burkitt's farm after 1868.

xx.

On part of lot 11, concession 6. F. S. Smith. Numerous relics have been found on his farm which is on the shore of Monk's or Smith's Bay. A favorite landing-place of the Indians existed here from early times. Metal tomahawks have been found, indicating the occupation of the place during "historic times" but there have been also relics found of prehistoric dates. Several years ago on the narrow tract of land between the two lakes (Simcoe and Couchiching) many stone axes were found. The place was near the Atherly Road on the way to Invermara and also near the bay just mentioned.

xxi.

At Invermara in the grounds of Orchard Point House (summer resort) formerly the Red Cross Hospital which is the property of Mr J. F. Secord Orillia. A paragraph appeared in each of the three Orillia newspapers of May 1 1890 mentioning the finding of a human skeleton with accompanying Indian relics and also other articles in the vicinity of the find. There were numerous prehistoric, as well as recent relics the remains thus belonging to all periods from the earliest downwards. Beside the single skeleton (apparently a woman's) there were some stamped out metal ornaments three brooches a double barred silver cross about four inches long with "Montreal" and the maker's mark upon it. At a little distance away were found fragments of roughly ornamented pottery clay pipe heads stone axes, a bone disk etc. The relics found with the skeleton indicated that it belonged to a comparatively recent period but the clay pipe heads and fragments mostly belonged to the early Huron period. The latter included a Huron flared pipe (plain), a "bell" pattern pipes and five images from pipes (an owl's head a hawk's head the head of another bird a nondescript image, pig nosed or wolf nosed and a human face). The foregoing relics indicate various periods of occupation of the site as we might expect from the fact that the fishing station at a little distance north and in fact along the entire length of the Narrows attracted Indians thither at all times.

xxii.

Fishing Station at the Narrows.

Remains of the fishing station and fish weir of the Hurons at the Narrows. The position of the old weir is north of the present bridges and south of the old railway bridge. In 1887 the late Joseph

Wallace or, a local archæologist of Orillia, identified this as the fishing station mentioned in Champlain's Journal (1615) at the time when he had extracts from that Journal printed in the *Orillia Times*. (See Champlain's Works Vol. 4 page 34). Mr. Wallace also contributed an article on the subject to *The Canadian Indian* (Sault Ste Marie Ont.), and it appeared in the issue of that periodical for February, 1891 pages 134-138, under the heading "A Fishing Station of the Ancient Hurons Identified." Owing to the rarity of that publication, it is worth while reprinting here Mr. Wallace's words in reference to the fish stakes. After some general remarks on the object of Champlain's expedition he says —

"The Narrows presents much the same features as in Champlain's days. But its fame as a fishing ground has long vanished; bass may still be caught with the rod, or trolling; and in the winter season, some scores of Indians and whites may be seen spearing herrings through holes cut in the ice. Still there is no doubt that at the time to which reference is made, all those lakes were literally swarming with fish. Are there any remains to point out the exact locality where these stakes crossed the strait? In answering this question in the affirmative I would state that some years since my friend Gilbert Williams an Indian informed me that he had seen very old stakes which were used by the Mohawks for catching fish. Some time after when I was writing out the story of Champlain for one of our local papers I was conversing with Charles Jacobs on the subject who said he had also seen the stakes, and further that the locality was known to this day as "mitchekun" which means a fence or the place which was fenced or staked across. He said that if a stranger Indian were to ask him where he came from he would answer mitcheknung the termination "ing" signifying from that is, from Mitchekun. We were, at the time, standing on the Orillia wharf and within sight of the end of the Narrows. Charles Jacobs said ask old Mr Sasaks (who was standing near by) where Mitchekun is. As soon as I asked the old man he turned and pointed to the Narrows which was between two and three miles distant. In September 1886 I walked down to the Narrows, and entered into conversation with Mr Frank Gaudaur who is of Indian extraction and the keeper of the Midland railway bridge who immediately took me to the side of the bridge and only a few paces distant and shewed me a number of the stakes which remained. Dredging the channel for the purpose of navigation had, of course removed the greater part of them, only those on the outside of the dredged portion being left. Mr Gaudaur said that there were some other places where stakes might be seen but that this was the most complete part. The stakes as might be expected were a good deal twisted by the current but the ends were still close together and firmly embedded in the clay and mud at the bottom so that it was only after considerable pulling with a spear that one was brought to the surface. The stakes would be about five or six feet long and thicker than a walking stick. It is to be observed that they are not placed across in a straight line indeed one portion is continued in a direct on half way down the stream and would thus produce an angle when the line was changed upwards, and at the opening of this angle would be placed the net and this is in exact accordance with the

method which Champlain describes, when the Indians were hunting deer; that is by staking out a large space in the woods, with an angle into which the game was driven. It is not difficult to account for the stakes lasting for so many years when we consider that the tops were under the surface of the water, thus escaping the action of the air and also that of the ice, which in this locality is never of great thickness because of the rapidity of the current. It must be understood that we do not assert that these identical stakes existed there in Champlain's time, although it is possible that some of them may be part of the original construction. It was probably used for fishing purposes long after the time of Champlain and even after the destruction of the Hurons, for I am strongly inclined to suspect that a portion of the Mohawks settled down on the vanquished territory, and remained there a considerable time. If such was the case, the fence would be repaired from time to time as circumstances required without altering the site to any material extent. The stake which I had, had been pointed with an axe of considerable sharpness as evidenced by the comparatively clean cuts made in the operation. Our present Indians who are Ojibways know nothing about them except the tradition before mentioned. Mr Snake is an old man and he stated to me that the old Indians, when he was young, referred the whole construction and its use, to the Mohawks. I have no doubt if they are not molested the remains will be in existence a century hence."

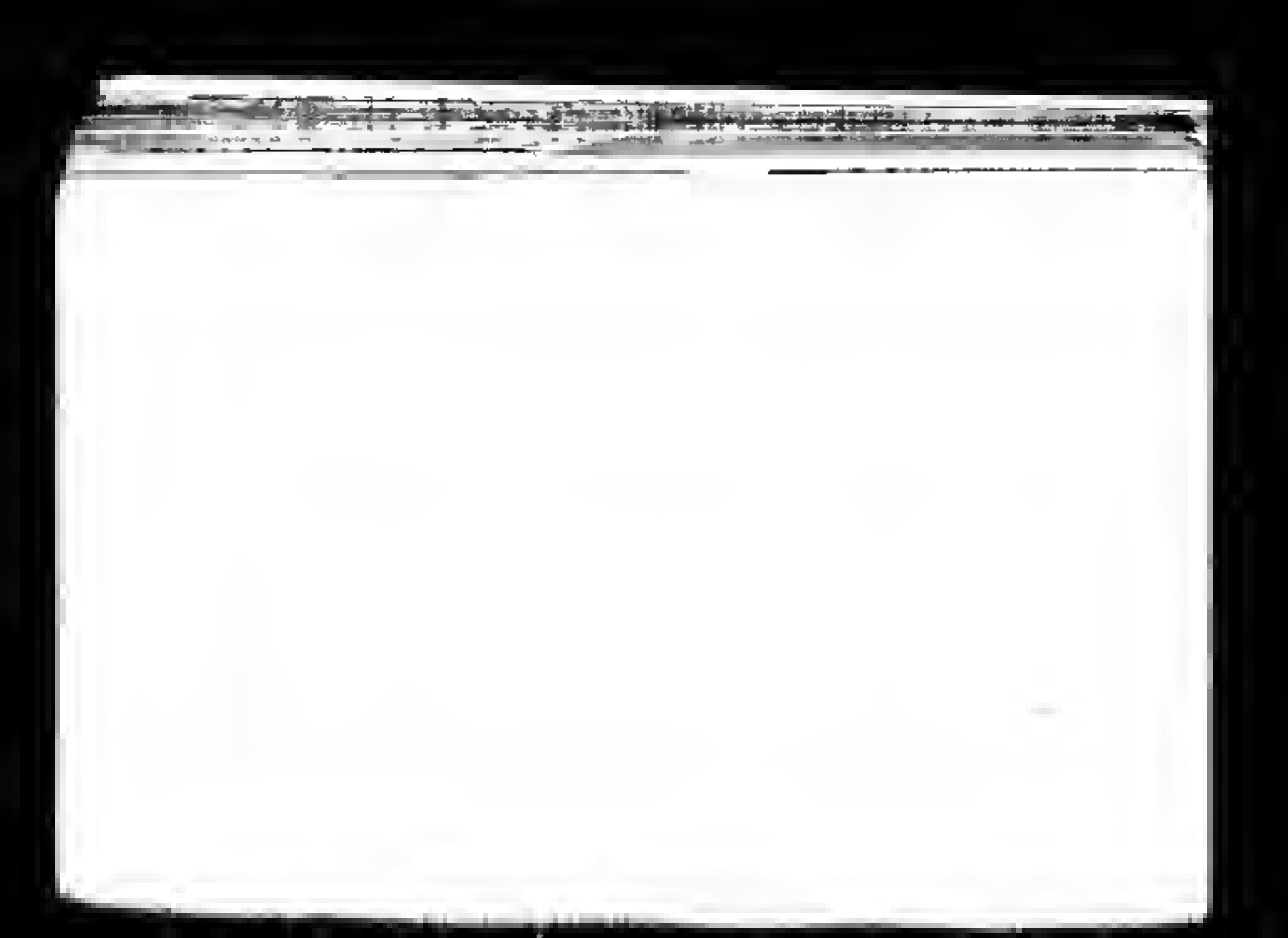
A paragraph in the *Orillia Packet* of June 21 1889 affords some further information upon the important fishing station.—"During his stay here Mr A. C. Osborne, of Penetanguishene accompanied by Mr Joseph Wallace sr., visited Mr F Gaudaur and they made a most interesting discovery. A copy of Champlain's journal describes the method by which the Indians took fish in 1615. They had rows of stakes driven into the bottom of the Narrows in such a way as to corral the fish in passing from one lake to the other. In this manner enough fish for the commissariat during the expedition in which they engaged against the Iroquois, were taken in five or six days. When this part of the journal was read to Mr Gaudaur he took his visitors to where the rows of stakes could be seen under water. The Ojibways he said found these stakes there when they came a hundred and fifty or eighty years since knew what they were for but did not use them. They were in large numbers, and at one time extended quite across the Narrows but very many were thrown out in dredging the present channel. The stakes are of tamarac. Mr Osborne secured two—one had evidently been put down to replace another at a date subsequent to the other which was soft like cheese, when pulled out. The top is decorticated and is covered with slime. Though only some six inches were visible they extend a long distance into the mud. Mr Osborne believes that the older stakes are ones of those there when Champlain encamped at the spot. Mr Gaudaur says that these under-water fences probably suggested the Ojibway name of Orillia or the Narrows—Michiksaung. The Place of the Fence.

Following the publication of the foregoing paragraph the present writer communicated a letter to the *Orillia Packet* of July 5 1889 suggesting that the early French name of Lake Simcoe, viz. Hurdle

Lake (Lac aux Claies) was derived from this fishing contrivance at the Narrows C C. James, M.A., made a similar suggestion in a letter to the *Toronto Globe* May 26 1896 And in a letter to the *Orillia Packet* of April 2 1903 Aubrey White Deputy Minister of Crown Lands, Toronto also suggests or rather points out as an established fact (though without citing any authority) that the early French adopted the idea of the name Hurdle Lake from the same Indian fish fence. These three suggestions appear to have been made independently of each other making the validity of the suggestion very strong [See also Gen John S. Clark's article in Ontario Archaeological Report for 1899 p. 195]

A F Hunter.

Barrie December 1903



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NOTE ON SITES OF HURON VILLAGES

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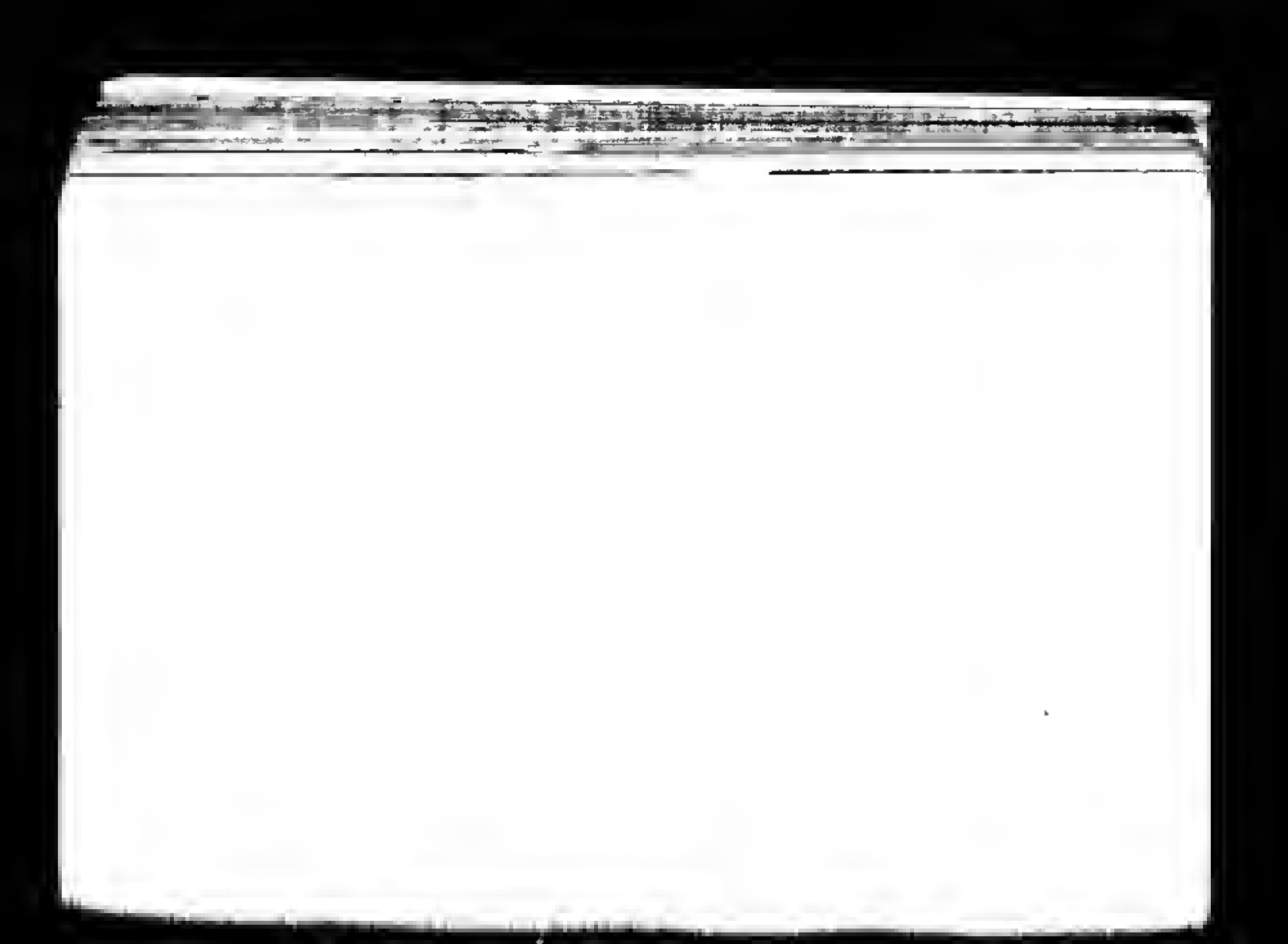

Notes on Sites of Indian Villages

Townships of North and South Orillia (Simcoe Co.)

Reprinted from the Ontario Archaeological Report for 1903

By ANDREW F HUNTER, M.A

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Notes on

Sites of Indian Villages

IN THE

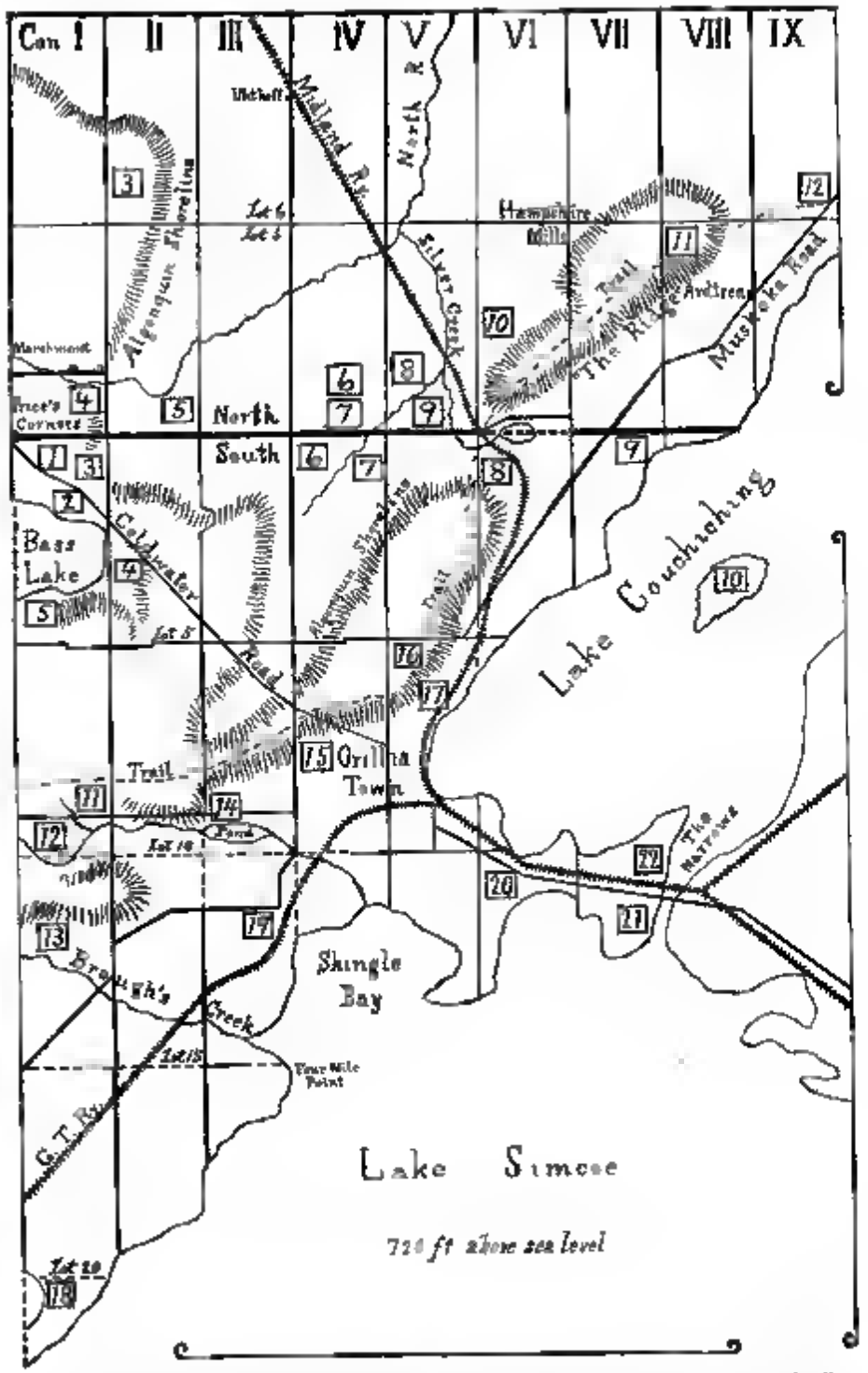
Townships of North and South Orillia

(Simcoe County)

BY

ANDREW F HUNTER M A

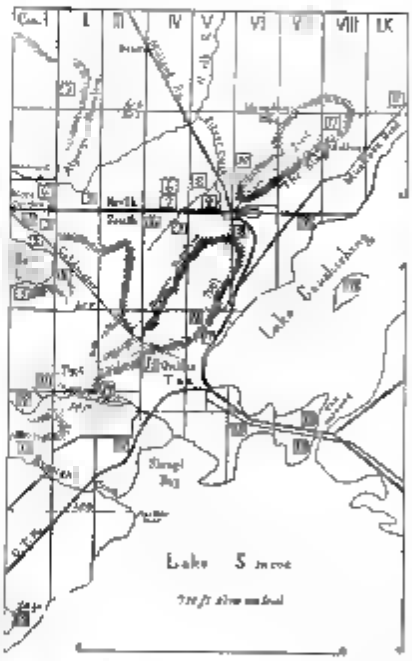
TORONTO
WARWICK BRO S & RUTTER
1904



Archaeological Map of the Orillia Township (South Orillia and part of North Orillia). The numbers of the sites on the map correspond with the numbers given to them in the text

INDIAN VILLAGE SITES IN NORTH AND SOUTH ORILLIA TOWNSHIPS

The settled parts of both townships are hilly The ends of two long ridges come out of the adjoining townships along the west side—the one out of Medonte into North Orillia the other out of Oro into South Orillia. Besides these, a long ridge runs through both townships, near Lake Couchiching and parallel with it for several miles This prominent line of high ground which takes a north easterly direction is known locally in North Orillia as "The Ridge" It extends as far as the ninth concession of that township and owing to its isolated position it is quite a conspicuous feature in the landscape It deserves our special attention as it is in a sense the barrier that holds back the waters of Couchiching from pouring directly over to Georgian Bay deflecting them by the Severn River



At the town line between the north and south townships, there is a break where "The Ridge" in North Orillia is cut off from the high ground in South Orillia Branches of Silver Creek take rise in this gap, becoming fair sized streams, and the Midland Railway utilizes it for a passage Village sites of the early Huron period some of them quite populous are found generally along "The Ridge" but are more numerous in the vicinity of the Silver Creek openings than elsewhere.

The "Algonquin" shoreline girdles these hills or ridges as elsewhere, and this extinct shoreline is marked on the accompanying map to give the altitudes of the different parts of the townships. The "Algonquin" is a strong shore line everywhere but in the Orillia townships it is even stronger than elsewhere The main cutting is very distinct and about sixty feet lower the base of the submerged filling also becomes a well developed shoreline. The term as used in this report applies to the main cutting This main strand of the shoreline in the vicinity of Silver Creek attains an altitude of 875 feet above sea level, or 155 feet above Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching

North Orillia is a large township but parts of it are still covered with original forest. It has accordingly been found unnecessary to show more than a portion of this township on the accompanying map

The Village Sites

The list of 34 sites (12 in North Orillia and 22 in South Orillia) may not contain one half the sites that will ultimately be recorded for these townships. It is necessary to emphasize that I make no claim for completeness or perfection of the lists especially that for the north township. But the sites I give are the more conspicuous ones and will lay a foundation for future work by showing the lines of early occupation and travel. Even these show evidences of a considerable population in the early Huron epoch—the first half of the seventeenth century.

The plan followed here being the same as in earlier reports the task of collecting the data and its attending difficulties have been sufficiently dwelt upon in those reports. In the present one equal pains with those previously issued have been taken to make the observations correct and the features described may be verified in most cases by everyone for himself.

The Huron occupation of the region now under consideration in relation to its physiography, was not different from that of the townships previously examined. The Hurons kept to the high ground or ridges as we found them doing elsewhere. The ground in the south part of South Orillia was not well adapted for occupation by Hurons and their allies. It is too stony and gravelly and the small ridges there are too abrupt and narrow for their settlements. The high ground above the Algonquin shoreline in the north half of South Orillia according to the remains that have been found was their favorite habitat. Besides this Brough's Creek and its branches falling into Shingle Bay made a wide obstructive marsh.

Like the other townships of this district each of which has an important feature of some kind the Orillia townships have one of their own not less interesting than the others. They contain the line of contact between Huron tribes and those named Algonquin in the Jesuit Relations. Some of the village sites show differences of their own when compared with villages in other townships known to be distinctly Huron. Hence I am of the opinion that the former were the villages of the Algonquins. There may have been some overlapping of the Arendarronons (the most easterly Huron tribe) with the Algonquins so that some sites belonged to one and some to the other. And as the sites here as elsewhere do not all belong to the same year, or even to the same period one may have followed the other over the same ground. Further study of the sites will perhaps reveal some movement of this kind. But in any case the sites which I am inclined to call the Algonquin sites have distinct characters, and might almost be said to preponderate over the Huron sites in the Orillia townships.

The Indians who inhabited the sites which show the differences just referred to when compared with those of known Huron sites show marked development along certain lines. The more conspicuous of the differences are as follows:—

1 Disks. There is an abundance of stone and pottery disks. These are found in small numbers on some known Huron sites, but not in such profusion as we find in the present instances.

2 Individual burials. A patch of single graves is to be found at every one of the sites in question This is unlike the mortuary practices of the true Hurons who practiced scaffold burial combined with bonepits. In most cases however the patch of single graves is accompanied by a bonepit or two.

3. Highly decorated pipes and pottery In the ornamentation of clay pipes the pictorial art had a more extensive development in the Orillia townships than in the townships farther west where the true Hurons were located We may safely conclude this ornamentation was due to Algonquin influence whenever it is found on Huron sites It is not to be understood that modern Algonquins necessarily show a continuation of the skill of their ancestors or any trace of it It was the Algonquin speaking tribes of three centuries ago to which our remarks apply

4 Bone needles awls etc. The greater abundance of these on the sites called Algonquin by us, may have been due to better supplied hunting grounds than the Hurons possessed The latter tribes were more agricultural in their pursuits and more populous

5 Flints. These are more abundant than on true Huron sites

6 The Algonquins showed remarkable ingenuity in forming arrow heads out of pieces of brass from worn out brass kettles

Some of the features just mentioned resemble those of some sites in the district near Balsam Lake for the descriptions of which we are indebted to Geo. E Laidlaw The Orillia townships are not far distant from some of the sites which Mr Laidlaw has described and the points of similarity of some sites are therefore not to be wondered at His descriptions in former Archæological Reports bring out well the points of contrast between a proportion of the sites in his district near Balsam Lake, and true Huron sites

For locating the position of Ste. Elizabeth the mission of the Jesuits among the Algonquins of whom we have been speaking, Ducreux's map although it gives this mission fails to help us much as there is a confusion of North River with Severn River and the entire omission of one of them as I previously pointed out It is possible however that Ste Elizabeth was in the distinctly defined group of villages near Silver Creek In townships previously examined we found evidence to show that a mission often belonged to a district marked off or isolated by physical features, and the one in question is so distinctly defined as to lead us to make this conjecture with a fair degree of probability On the other hand there is a group of sites north of Bass Lake partly in Medonte township occupying a similar position with reference to North River that the Silver Creek group does with reference to Lake Couchiching and the Severn and it will be impossible to settle the question definitely without taking into account the group partly situated in Medonte

European relics are abundant in the Orillia townships, and this is one of their chief characteristics Iron or "white men's" relics have been definitely reported from 26 of the 34 sites or 76 per cent of the whole In this respect the Orillias agree with the northerly tier of townships—Tiny Tay and Medonte.

Some people have claimed that Cahiague the Huron town visited by Champlain was situated near Lake Couchiching and was perhaps

the Mount Slovan site. The improbability of this site having been Cahiague is discussed in the description of the site itself.

Burials.

There are eight bonepits reported, viz., at Nos. 6, 7 and 10 North and at Nos. 3, 4 (2), and 15 (2) South. Two pits each are reported for the two last mentioned sites. Patches of single graves or individual burials occur at even a larger proportion of sites than in townships hitherto examined in our passage through the district of the old Hurons. Figures thus based on aggregate results afford us reliable and instructive data. In short, we have found this practice of burying in single graves where we locate the Algonquins, and we may therefore conclude that the single burial grounds in the other townships (such as No. 41 Oro), were due to the presence or influence of Algonquins. Bonepit and scaffold burial was evidently the rule among Hurons.

Trails.

In these townships as elsewhere, the Indian had his trails in accord with the hills, valleys and streams, following their natural order and positions. The white man pays but little attention to these circumstances, and has almost forgotten to take them into account in his reflections on Indian days and ways except in one or two cases notably the Coldwater Road. The Town of Orillia, like most other towns of our fellow-Caucasians is built at the meeting place of several Indian trails. It is or was in the days of the forest and the red men the centre point of branching routes. These were for the most part not canoe portages, but forest trails pursued by the Indians when journeying without canoes. It may be expedient to take these trails in order passing around the various trails as around the spokes of a wheel.

The Muskoka Road.—From the abundance of relics and sites found along the high ground in South Orillia, and thence along the Ridge in North Orillia as far as the ninth concession of the latter and beyond it, it is evident that a trail followed the ridge parallel with Lake Couchiching, but inland some distance from the lakeshore. The writer has frequently pointed out in connection with other townships that the ridges which were wooded with hardwood chiefly, invariably had trails along them. The low flat land contained swamps or thickets and were less penetrable for walkers. The present instance is no exception to the rule. From Orillia town to Washago the Muskoka Road opened prior to 1858 along the east flanks of the ridges, and also parallel with Lake Couchiching, is the modern representative of the old forest trail. The present road, however, runs perhaps a little nearer the lake than did the old trail itself, yet the two follow the same course. This trail was in use down to modern times. The Rev. Dr. Grey and other early settlers testify to the existence of the trail here within their remembrance. There were also portages to the Severn River and these crossed the Muskoka Road or trail to Washego.

The Coldwater Road.—This was a long portage from the Narrows or rather from Lake Couchiching at the point where Orillia town now stands, to Coldwater on Matchedash Bay, its length being fourteen

miles. In 1830 when Sir John Colborne the Governor of Upper Canada collected the Chippewa tribes of the district into a reserve here extending along the portage the original trail was cleared out as a road for vehicles, and it has remained an important highway to this day Northwestwardly from the fourth line (S Orillia) at the Orillia Cemetery this road now runs through flat ground But there is a conspicuous bar of gravel and sand or old lake ridge across this valley or channel only 15 or 20 rods north of the present surveyed road This bar would carry the original trail A similar remark applies to the crossing of another channel nearer Bass Lake Elsewhere the present course for the road is almost identical with the trail

The Huron trail out of Oro to Orillia town site This trail which is the one Champlain evidently followed is now represented by the Oro Road Although the latter follows a straight course along surveyed lines it carries a large traffic over the same route the lines of transportation for white men being almost the same as those for their red predecessors as in so many other places.

The Atherley Road This evidently follows the old trail from Orillia town to the Narrows used when the aborigines travelled without canoes

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CATALOGUE OF SITES—NORTH ORILLIA

I

On the east half of lot 21 concession 5 This place is far down the North River Cranberries and huckleberries grow plentifully in the neighborhood and have attracted the aborigines thither from time immemorial Surface rocks make their appearance a little way off (viz about lot 22) and extend northward indefinitely In the summer of 1902 Fred Longhurst the owner of this lot plowed up an Indian's skeleton and an iron tomahawk

II

On the east half of lot 11 concession 3 Jay Walker This site occupies a hill and numerous relics have been found including iron tomahawks Flint arrowheads are plentiful

III

On the west half of lot 6 concession 2. Chas Clark They have found numerous relics and fragments especially in their garden but the site has been partly obliterated by cultivation It extends into lot 7 formerly owned by the Drinkwater Brothers. The land hereabout is flat, but a little way east drops at one of the "Algonquin" shore lines.

IV

On the east half of lot 2 concession 1 A. Margrett. On the south side of North River numerous remains have been found. Chas H Moffatt once lived here and found numerous relics of the usual kinds but it is noteworthy that his family found no relics of Euro-

pean make They found many good flints here but pottery fragments were not so abundant as at their present place in South Orillia. This was Jacob Powley's homestead in former years and many surface pits (i.e. empty caches or perhaps single graves) were to be seen at that period

v

On the east half of lot 1 concession 2 R. J S. Drinkwater His father the late Capt John Drinkwater settled here in 1832 They have found many iron tomahawks arrowheads and stone axes on this farm and north of Mr Drinkwater's house some pottery fragments showing occupation. Mr Drinkwater has been very observant in matters of this kind but although he has found numerous relics he has given them all away without making a collection of his own This locality was once a favorite place for beavers especially on a small stream running into North River here The place is surrounded by streams and thus somewhat protected as the site for a village

vi

On the east half of lot 2 concession 4 Before the year 1870 Edward Turner discovered a bone-pit here near the camps. He was following a path through the woods when he noticed a depression in the ground and having seen such burial places before he resolved to dig into it. On doing this, he found the deposit of human bones He also found in the pit five brass kettles one of these contained the moccasined toes of a squaw which had been preserved by the copper oxide but this relic decomposed when exposed to the air According to Mr Turner's description of the pit, it contained hundreds of skeletons. The soil is very sandy at the place The pit is half way west in lot 2 and on a low ridge along the crest of which the above mentioned path followed F W Fraser of Toronto who took part in the opening of this pit in or about the year 1885 was the first person to give me information of it. There were various single graves found around about the large bone pit In one of the isolated graves there were three skulls one of which was supposed to be that of a European person though with what certainty of proof I have been unable to find Altogether there were some thirteen kettles found in the pit and some wampum In the single graves were found a clay pipe a stone pipe and an iron tool.

vii

On the east half of lot 1, concession 4 John Ego This lot was formerly occupied by the late Thomas Campbell Some years ago a large bone pit was found on the southeast face of a hill about half a mile west of Silver Creek It was dug out at the time Mr J H Hammond of Orillia, who gave me the particulars of this pit also informed me that the soil at the place is sandy and would be easy for the aborigines to dig with their roughly-made wooden tools

VIII

On the southwest quarter of lot 2 concession 5 Archibald Fyfe This site is on the northwest side of Silver Creek and close to it Soil sandy It occupies a hillside Mr Fyfe has found numerous remains here including stone axes, clay pipes beads, etc.

IX.

On the southwest quarter of lot 1 concession 5 Geo. Greer (who lives upon east half lot 2). The site is on a sandy plain, on the north side of Silver Creek Iron tomahawks were found at or near this site and Wm. Rouse, junr. of Mitchell Square found a clay pipe of the "pinched-face" pattern which is a distinctively Huron or Tobacco Nation form belonging to the early French period or earlier Mr Rouse also found a part of the blade of a rapier Mr Greer has found besides iron tomahawks a steel knife flat wampum beads, pottery disk and clay pipe bowls (Huron forms) There are or were some artificial depressions in the surface of the ground at this site.

X

2.

On the west half of lot 3 concession 6 William S Brennan On the ridge at the rear of the dwelling house considerable quantities of pottery fragments and other remains are found The pottery here was highly decorated Mr Armson a relative of Mr Brennan while once excavating for the foundation of the house, found a large bone pit almost underneath the front door

XI

On the west half of lot 5 concession 8 Robert W Holmes This site is a patch on the summit or brow of the Algonquin shoreline and consisted of ashbeds with pottery fragments some brass arrow heads, etc It had a defensive position Mr Holmes has found iron tomahawks (French make) by dozens and these are also to be found on other farms about here

XII

On the east half of lot 6 concession 9 Charles Brailey This site is near a small stream and is in a line with the east end of The Ridge and a nice cove or bay of Lake Couchiching the head of which is at the end of the eleventh line The camps are about three quarters of a mile from Lake Couchiching There were ashbeds and empty caches or surface pits. In the ashbeds they found in former years more frequently than in late years brass arrowheads bone needles clam shells etc. and in the vicinity iron tomahawks (French pattern) and stone skinners

CATALOGUE OF SITES—SOUTH ORILLIA

I

On the south half of lot 1 concession 1 Henry W. Smith. Here was once the Indian Agency on the Coldwater Road and at an early date a clearing had been made in connection with it in which the Indians grew corn. Remains of this have been found. A site of the early Huron period also yielding some relics of various kinds—stone axes, pottery fragments, etc.—has been found half way east in this farm but no iron relics. A human skeleton was found at the place. This site extends a little way into lot 2 (Chas. H. Moffett's) but is a distinct site from the one at Mr. Moffatt's house and at some distance from it.

II

In the west half of lot 2, concession 1. Frank Nelson. Some camps occur at a place on this farm, at or near the boundary of Mr. Goss' land (lot 3). Pottery fragments were abundant, and human face pipes in considerable numbers were found in the refuse many years ago, before the place had been much cultivated.

III

On the north east quarter of lot 2, concession 1. Charles H. Moffatt. (Mrs. Nelson also occupies part of this lot). An important village site occurs in the extreme north east corner of the lot, covering five or six acres. It includes Mr. Moffatt's garden and extends beyond it, crossing the boundary into lot 1. It also extends across the road here (second line) into the lots of the second concession. There is a small stream through the adjoining lot 1, and the Indian remains have been found along the south side of the stream. The Indian cabins were placed along the banks of the stream, chiefly, the village being thus long and narrow and accordingly not palisaded. As no iron or other European relics have been found at this site, it probably belonged to an earlier period than that in which there was a misunderstanding with the Iroquois, and hence there was no great need of palisading. There are numerous refuse heaps here, one of them being two feet thick, and showing that the place was occupied for a long time. Mr. Moffatt has lived here since 1900, and as this village site is near the house, his family has paid close attention to the numerous articles that have turned up from time to time. Bone needles and awls were uncommonly plentiful, some twenty having been found. Other articles were:—Wampum beads (bone and stone, but no shell wampum), a dozen stone axes, clam shell fragments, bears' teeth (some of them with holes for suspension as bangles), teeth of beavers and porcupines, thirty or more stone and pottery disks, many flints, a bone arrowhead, corn grains, etc. The pottery fragments found here are highly decorated, one of the pieces showing a human face as part of its decorations. The pipe fragments of this site will repay a careful study. The clay specimens show an uncommon development of the pictorial art, perhaps not even so much as a single plain pipe having been found, but all being decorated. Here is a partial list of some of the pipes:—

Human effigy pipes in considerable numbers, several of the cornet or flared mouth pattern a square mouth specimen (modification of the cornet pattern) numerous specimens of the belt pattern (one of them showing a modification of the basal line of dots into dashes), an effigy pipe (the bowl being the open mouth of a snake similar to the figure in First Archæological Report p 23). The fragments of stone pipes found show also attempts at animal and human designs. At some little distance from this site a bonepit was once found It probably belonged to this site although it is unsafe to conclude definitely because there are other sites within moderate distances of the pit. In 1892 or thereabout Mr. T F Milne who then taught the Marchmont school made some little examination of this pit but found no remains of any importance There were no whole skulls and the other bones were saturated with water or otherwise decayed Altogether the information gleaned from this pit has been too insignificant to add much to our knowledge yet the pit may have been opened many years ago as the late Wm Smith who lived on the next farm north (father of the present occupant Henry W Smith) was aware of its existence

IV

At the extreme south west corner of lot 3 concession 2 beside Bass Lake. William Jackson On a terrace in Mr Jackson's field the usual pottery fragments and other relics are found Gouges and arrowheads were numerous. Also on the higher hill eastward some remains appeared Beside the road which passes along the shore of Bass Lake here some of the immense boulders have mortars on their tops. No iron or other relics of European make, are reported for this site, although some are said to have been found in one of the bone pits. Part of this site occurs over the line of the adjoining farm, viz, the west half of lot 4, now occupied by Julius Crockford In the latter farm there was a large hole in the clay hill supposed to be the place where the clay for pottery was obtained as pottery fragments were numerous round about This hole, the late Richard Rix who formerly occupied the farm filled in when he found it. George Rix, now of Orillia town, formerly occupied the farm of Mr Jackson On the same farm some distance north from the easterly end of Bass Lake, R J S Drinkwater discovered a bonepit when the place was in woods. The date of finding this pit was September 8 1868 as Mr Drinkwater finds by his diary which he was kind enough to look up at my request. His knowledge of the surface indications of such pits he had obtained from his grandfather the Rev Geo Hallen of Penetanguishene A year or two later while a camp-meeting was in progress beside Bass Lake some of those who attended the meeting dug out the contents of the bonepit, which Mr Drinkwater had left undisturbed Its position was near the Coldwater road The late Capt. Peter Lyon, who saw it at that time informed me that it had a diameter of about twelve feet. Some brass kettles clay pipes, etc. are reported to have been found in it When the curiosity seekers dug out this bonepit at the time of the camp meeting a doctor who was present put together the bones of a skeleton for the edification of the spectators thus combining anatomical recreation with divinity A second and smaller bonepit was found near the larger one.

v

On the west half of lot 5 concession 1 The Basil R. Rowe homestead now occupied by Chas. H Rowe. The site is on the lower ground near Bass Lake and extends across two fields. Pottery fragments pipes etc. were found at it especially a number of years ago Many stone skinners and French (iron) tomahawks, have been found all over the adjoining fields Dr Tache got some of the relics from this site when he carried on his archaeological explorations some forty years ago and these are probably in the Laval museum in Quabec city

vi

On the west half of lot 1 concession 4 Edward Turner He has found a few relics of the usual kinds but the village was small Iron tomahawks have been found in the neighborhood of the site but none immediately at the place itself

vii

On the east half of lot 1 concession 4 Richard Vanderburg sr This place is situated on the east side of a part of Silver Creek one of the branches of North River There have been extensive ash beds and refuse heaps, mixed with clay pottery and pipe fragments but the ground is all cultivated now Archibald Fyfe of North Orillia once owned this farm and lived on it for a length of time He found various relics while here Edward Turner now owner of the west half also cultivated this land and observed the remains Iron tomahawks have been found in the neighborhood of the site.

viii

On the west half of lot 1 concession 6 Mrs Emma McPhie and family who occupy this land find in their field south of the residence an important village site, the distance being not far to Mud Lake which is also partly on their land The late Alex McPhie found many relics here including a few iron tomahawks, and his brother J W McPhie now of Epworth B.C also made a collection at this site. These were purchased in 1884 by Mr George W Dryden of Whitby Ont. in whose possession they are still preserved. In reply to my enquiries Mr Dryden informs me the collection he obtained from the McPhie brothers contains ten or twelve pipeheads (clay) some of which represent the following —Wolf owl snake frog and human faces. There are also some half-dozen iron axes beads wampum bone needles, stone disks etc. Mrs McPhie's sons are close observers of this village site at which there are numerous deep ash heaps. It extends into the land of Mr Jesse Ryerson (west half of lot 2) It is worthy of note that arrowheads made from pieces of brass (probably pieces of old kettles) are quite numerous here and some of them were very neatly formed Stone and pottery disks were numerous.

ix

On lot one, concession 7 George Annis This lot is broken by Lake Conchiching at the shore of which high terraces of former lake

margins appear On one of these terraces Mr Annis has found pottery fragments pipes, iron tomahawks etc There is higher ground beside the site so it was evidently not palisaded The occupants of other farms adjoining this one have found stone and iron axes on their lands showing this was a rendezvous in early times as indeed we might expect from the fact that there is a cove in the shore of Lake Couchiching at this place

x

On Chief's Island Lake Couchiching a few remains have been found This island has been a rendezvous for Algonquins both ancient and modern. After the exchange of the Coldwater Tract for the Rama Reserve in 1839 the island became the headquarters of the Chippewas for a time, as its name implies Relics from an island in Lake Couchiching (probably this island) are in the museum of the University of Toronto marked thus —"169 Two large circular silver brooches one small brooch three silver buckles two horn spoons two small hawk bells etc. from a grave on one of the islands in Lake Couchiching T W Harris (Compare these relics with those from Present Island Report on Tiny p 21) See also Sir Daniel Wilson's article on "Cranial Types" in *Canadian Journal* second series vol 2 (1857) pp 406 435 for measurements of Chippewa skulls from Lake Conchiching

Some reefs on Cedar Island in Lake Couchiching are sometimes miscalled the old Indian Fort by a few people but they are the work of the ice of the lake at a former higher level

xi

On the east half of lot 9 concession I William Harvie Many camps, where ashbeds were as much as four feet thick were to be seen here strewn with pottery fragments pipe fragments etc Iron tomahawks (early French make) and other relics have been found The site covers three or four acres, and is on the opposite side of the valley of the same stream as the next site and upward of a quarter of a mile from it

xii

On the west half of lot 10 concession I David T Strathearn Mr Strathearn sr found pottery fragments and other relics at a place near a water supply as long ago as 1859 or earlier At later dates also other camps strewn with pottery fragments etc have come to light on the farm. The relics gathered included two steel knives. About 1888 Mr Strathearn found a large mealing stone here (or at the next site) but, unfortunately, it was broken in removal Three large ash heaps, or possibly more are still quite distinct notwithstanding the effects of cultivation

xiii

On the west half of lot 13 concession 1 This site is on the north bank of Brough's Creek, beside what was known as Edmondson's or Salter's Mill Pond (This mill pond was broken down by the flood

of June 5th 1890 and has not been rebuilt). Before 1889 when I first became acquainted with the site it had been ploughed two or three times and remains of camps exposed strewn with pottery and pipe fragments and other relics including iron tomahawks. At that time the occupant was Richard Frost.

XIV

On the north west quarter of lot 10 concession 3 Thomas Day Near a stream which flows into Shingle Bay John Sanvidge now of Magnetawan lived formerly on the part of this farm on which were remains. During the time he lived here copper kettles or pieces of them were found abundantly also iron axes of early French make. Geo McKinnell of Orillia town, obtained twelve of these French axes from this site. Two of them are now preserved in the Orierson Museum in Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland Richard O Bell Oro Station obtained two French axes here on which the triple marks were unusually well defined and large each tomahawk having a distinct pattern Large ash heaps mixed with broken pottery pipeheads, etc., occur here Mr J H Hammond Orillia, giving his recollections of the place in the early seventies says 'It was on the south side of Barrie road about a mile and a half out of Orillia on the edge of the old mill pond between the road and the mill pond. This plot or site would be two or three acres in extent, and it was on sandy soil. In the field where the village site was a great many remains of the Indians such as broken pottery pipes and broken pipe heads skinning stones and quantities of ash heaps and remains of fires were scattered over the ground The pipes were ornamented by a sort of basket work pattern around the head of the pipe and near the top Some of the pipes had stems others only the pipe-head with a hole for a stem The skinning stones were all of a green stone different from any around here and were all chisel edged I recollect two grooved stones These had a chisel edge and were large about nine inches long a half to three-quarters of an inch thick and about three inches wide with a depression around the centre, apparently for the purpose of holding the handle. The soil of this village site is red sand and it is on a level bench about twelve feet above the level of the water of the dam (The dam in the stream here is known as Thomson's Mill Pond, and formerly as Dallas from Fred. Dallas the earliest settler at the place.) About 300 yards to the west of the village site is the cemetery with which it was probably connected This burial ground consisted of single graves, situated on the Cuppage farm (north east quarter of lot 10 concession 2.) Nearly all or quite all of the graves have been rifled of their contents by curiosity-seekers. From all that can be learned I regard it as a noteworthy archaeological feature. In company with Dr Jas N Harvie of Orillia I made a visit of inspection to this aboriginal cemetery on June 24 1889 A tiny stream emptying into the larger stream divided the burial ground into two parts About thirty holes in the surface of the ground (presumably graves) were to be seen on one side and about ten on the other A tree whose stump showed about 115 annual rings and had been fifteen years chopped had grown out of one of the holes thus

showing a minimum age of 130 years for the cemetery Yet this is much less than the actual age of the graves as some French tomahawks furnish evidence that they were much older and belonged to the seventeenth century The ground at the place is sandy while surrounding parts are clay and gravel A little west (not above a quarter of a mile) and slightly higher is the Algonquin raised shoreline The surface of each grave was depressed below the level of the ground by sinkage probably and thus each grave could be seen It is now close to Thomson's Mill Pond, but at the time of its use by the Indians it would be at the edge of a swamp. It resembles the Coleman cemetery in Oro (No 41) and belongs to the type peculiar to the early Algonquins, and perhaps, also to the Arendarronons, the Huron tribe who were nearest the Algonquins and were most influenced by their customs. The graves are said to have yielded a few pipes (chiefly clay) tomahawks (stone and iron) pottery fragments and stone disks

XV

The Mount Slaven Site.

Indian remains have been found quite extensively in what is known as the Mount Slaven Annex This is really a part of Orillia town but the land is not yet within the corporation limits On both sides of the Mount Slaven Creek numerous remains have been found For the most part, the plot in question is a large burial ground Whether it was the regular camping ground of the Indians who buried so extensively here, or whether their camps were at some little distance is not very evident. But it is certain that many ashbeds mixed with the usual pottery fragments, etc, occur here as well as graves and the probability is that the aboriginal occupants lived right here and buried their friends close to their dwellings The remains have been found within the space enclosed by the Fourth Line of South Orillia and O'Brien Street on the west and east respectively and by Missisaga and Lavicount Streets on the south and north respectively Within this rectangular block is enclosed a space of about 68 acres Graves and other remains cover about half of this area which is now partly covered with houses and gardens Placed as it was on lower ground than anywhere else around it and occupying both sides of the creek the sheltered position of this site would make it a desirable wintering spot and I incline to think it was used for this purpose for a long period The mixed character of the relics found here tends to confirm this view For example French iron axes of the pattern belonging to the seventeenth century as well as pipe tomahawks (steel) have been found on the site. The latter are not found on early sites, but occur on recent camping grounds and they are to be regarded as belonging not to the French period of Canada but to the early British period that is after 1759 It is probable this camping ground was used in both periods. The settlers in the Mount Slaven suburb find many iron and steel tomahawks of both the aforementioned kinds

Besides the series of isolated or single graves which have been thoroughly ransacked for relics by curiosity seekers during the past

forty years there were at least two communal ossuaries or bonepits The first of these was found about the year 1870 on or about lot No 212 south of Mary Street and thirty or forty yards from the creek before mentioned Very few buildings were in that part of the town at the time A pine tree had partly grown over the pit A large number of skulls and other human bones were found in it.

A smaller communal grave came to light in September 1902. Mr Harry Willey was levelling up his lot on the north side of Mary street and came across a number of skeletons, ten of which were together the skulls occupying the small space of two square yards Particulars of the discovery appeared at some length in the *Orillia Packet*, of October 2 1902. The character of the deposit of bones indicates that the communal idea underlay the placing of them together At a former time some beads and tomahawks were found with a few other skeletons some yards nearer the street and again in August 1903 Mr Willey found an earthen pot (Indian make complete) beside some other skeletons

As to the question of what kind of Indians inhabited this site Mr C. A Hirschfelder once informed me that he made openings in a few of the single graves some years ago and obtained some European relics He concluded that the burials he saw had been of later Algonkin origin On the other hand Mr Lawrence Heyden Toronto, stated to me his opinion that this was a Huron site giving as his reason the occurrence of a communal grave out of which he took no less than 38 tibiæ (shin-bones) This implies that the communal bone pit was a Huron institution only Perhaps both gentlemen are correct in holding these divergent opinions as I have mentioned above the probability that the site was occupied by Indians in widely different periods Mr Heyden communicated to me some facts bearing upon these burials as follows —

The ossuary or rather series of ossuaries found about quarter of a mile west of the Orillia Town Hall contained copper kettles, remains of blades of knives pipes pottery as well as stone beads etc So any village in the vicinity of these ossuaries must have been populous and post French (that is after the French arrived in the country and not after they had quitted the district when the Hurons dispersed). Hatchets and other remains are frequently found scattered within a pretty large circumference of which these osmaries might be taken as a centre"

Some persons have advanced the theory that this site was Cahiague, the town from which Champlain set out in 1615 on his expedition to the Iroquois The characters of this site forbid the theory even if we had not Champlain's explicit statement that Cahiague was three leagues from Lake Couchiching In the first place the relics found here indicate that the site was inhabited at widely different times, which would account for the large extent of ground strewn with remains Yet large as the site is it is doubtful whether it could be the spot on which the 200 cabins of Cahiague were placed And still further it lacks a defensive position which was essential for a large village or town like Cahiague. It occupies flat land with higher ground on two sides of it and is on both sides of the Creek A position of this kind was anything but defensive, according to our

knowledge of what other fortified villages are like in the matter of position. The site was probably Algonquin both early and modern and not Huron.

While preparing these descriptions of sites, I was favored by Mr J. H. Hammond of Orillia with the perusal of some notes on this site written by him to preserve some record of the place, as its present condition scarcely admits of making a definite account owing to the presence of so many buildings. Mr Hammond has granted my request to publish the following extracts a favor that will be appreciated by students of archæology and history generally as there are but few left who witnessed the exhumation of the most important part of the remains about thirty years ago. Mr Hammond whose remarks on the orientation of the burials and other mortuary practices of the Indians who deposited the remains of their dead here are very interesting says— 'In the early seventies, as a schoolboy, I spent the greater part of some Saturdays and holidays with my playmates in excavating Indian graves on the lots north of the extension of Mississaga street, on Mount Slaven near Orillia Town. Our schoolmaster (Samuel McIlvaine) urged us to make all available collections of any objects such as beads wampum and the like. He was making a collection, and utilized our muscles in furthering that object. It was then called the Indian graveyard. These excursions lasted over three years, and were pursued by us every convenient Saturday during the summer seasons.

'The graves were single and extended in (four) lines from the bank of the creek toward the hillside at the Coldwater Road in a north westerly direction. All of the bodies were buried in a sitting posture facing the east or morning sun. In every case we came on the skull first. The hands and arms were always in front of and crossing the leg bones.

'In only one case were there more than one body in a single hole. In this case the bodies were laid flat, head and feet regularly. This hole was oval about fifteen feet long and seven or eight feet wide and placed between the second and third lines of graves twenty or thirty yards from the bank of the creek. In this big grave we found a large quantity of wampum about the size of a ten cent piece with a drilled hole in the centre of each piece; some round blue beads; and some red beads of a bugle shape an inch to an inch and a half long pierced like the others. Also a quantity of flint arrowheads and spear heads. No iron axes that I remember, though we had plenty of them from the neighborhood.

'In only one case was any kettle found, and this was southeast of the big grave on a level place about half way down to the water edge. It was upside down and under it was a large quantity of thigh bones which were in no case broken. These had been boiled or were in the process of being boiled when the kettle was upset and the fire put out by the liquid in the pot. On top of this pot a big pine stub was standing and the main root of the stub ran down in the earth until it reached the bottom of the kettle and then grew around the surface of it. The stub would be at least two feet through and we had to cut through the big root to free the kettle before we could get it out of the hole. Underneath the kettle and bones as above

described were the remains of the fire some of the wood partly burnt, some burnt to coal and some to ashes This kettle was brass and had heles fer the bail The rim was flared and was ef the same material as the pot itself. It was about twe and a half feet across the top and about twenty inches deep The bail heles were about an inch and a half in diameter and about half an inch from the edge ef the pot Inside ef the pot was a collection ef green matter hard and sticking fast on the pot when we feund it The surfaces ef the bones were ef a brown yellew color no marks upon them Underneath the kettle the ashes were bright and clean, no trace ef any rotted flesh only pieces of charred wood and coal and ashes underneath the bones

'The graves were in a succession ef lines about twenty feet apart each way and apparently fellewed a fixed plan ef burial There were at least four lines of graves (possibly mere) and they extended through the sand (a coarse grey and well drained sand) to the gravel under the hill at the Coldwater Road. The ground was nearly level having a slight upward trend toward the Coldwater Road er Trail a distance of a quarter ef a mile or more. The ground had at one time been cleared ef trees for the trees were nearly all of one size, viz. about a feet through while the woods on both sides of the graveyard were larger and contained pine trees some large, others smaller There were a few butternut trees along the edges ef the graveyard but none en it. The spring creek which ran to the east and south had cut a channel from fifteen to twenty feet deep below the level of the graveyard and it was at this time a running stream all the year round

One ef the graves that we excavated was of an exceptional character as the bones were ef an enormous size The skull was intact with the exception ef a break in the middle of the crown. This was two or three inches long and about half an inch wide apparently made by a blow with a blunt axe er pointed stone The cut ran from the back toward the front of the skull and was widest at the middle ef the cut tapering to a point both ways. The lewer jawbone of this body was in place and I tried it ever my own head and face and it passed clear ef my face without touching it at any place. Our schoolmaster measured the thighbone ef this body en his ewn leg and it extended beyend his knee several inches and he was a tall man too We found in this grave a quantity ef hair black and long apparently attached to what we then thought to be a scalp This was en the knees ef the body I also got out of this grave a black amulet shaped like a bird which had apparently hung en the breast ef the man in life. It was of stone polished and perfect. We also got some flint arrowheads eut ef this grave but nothing else that I can recollect.

XVI.

On the west half of lot 6 concession 5 In the north and highest part of the Town of Orillia numerous remains have been found along the brow of the Algonquin shoreline The relics found en this high ground site belong more distinctly to the early Huron period than do those of the Mount Slaven site. The Huron forest

trail appears to have passed along the brow of the ridge here. The following list of some of the remains found is only a partial one —In the woods on a lot belonging to Lawrence Heydan Toronto east of the upper end of Peter street partly within the town limits there were found several hatchets At another place in the vicinity of the same numerous pottery fragments were found at a short distance from a spring as Mr C H Hale informs us On a lot on Matchedash street, sold by Lawrence Heyden to the Rev Mr Creighton there were found on clearing off the surface stones a human skeleton with a hatchet (French of the early Huron period) lying beside it. In the spring of 1903 F Webber lot 25 North Borland street found a string of wampum (55 beads) while digging a celery trench in his garden C E C Newton Esq found in his garden on Borland Street, near the High School in August 1903 a fine brass crucifix 5 inches long and well preserved In the *Orillia Packet* of July 16 1903 A C Osborne describes a St. Bartholomew medal bearing the date August 24 1572 which W J Powley found near where the Coldwater road ascends the ridge All these finds and many other similar ones in the highest part of the town indicate an extensive occupation and travel here in the early period

XVII

On the old Asylum ground now the Park in the town of Orillia (parts of lots 7 and 8 concession 5) This was a prehistoric site or landing as well as a noted camping ground for Indians as late as the time when the first settlers came to Orillia. Iron hatchets have been and are being turned up

XVIII

On the west half of lot 21 concession 1 William Anderson Members of Mr Anderson's family have found stone axes clay pipes pottery fragments an iron tomahawk etc at a place near their boathouse One of the pipes was of the belt pattern an early Huron type. The site is at the west end of the portage across the neck of land at Carthew's Bay The Indians use this portage to the present day the trail passing across the neck on the north side of the swale which occurs there Modern Indians carry their canoes across this neck of about 25 rods rather than paddle round the point (Eight Mile Point), a distance of more than a mile around and also exposed to winds The evidence at hand also shows that Indians at a very early period preferred to do the same

Local newspapers of June 1888 mentioned the finding of a human skeleton (supposed to be an Indian's) with coins of about the year 1800 at what was called Cameron's Point two miles to the eastward of this portage. The action of the waves had washed the skeleton partly out of the bank where it had been buried It proved however to be the remains of an old trader who carried on his traffic among the Indians at an early date When he died they buried him in his old butternut canoe. There were brass buttons on his coat by which the remains were identified

XIX

In the central part of lot 12 concession 3 Now the grounds of the Provincial Asylum for Idiots, near Orillia Town The position of the place is at the north west part of Shingle Bay where the land rises high above the lake level There was a landing here in the time of the aborigines. The late John Burkitt lived here in former years and found numerous relics especially many pottery fragments etc Mr Burkitt's name appears in early Assessment Rolls (1858 and later) as owner of the whole of lot 12 And Mr C H Hale informs me this was known as Burkitt's farm after 1868.

XX.

On part of lot 11 concession 6 F S. Smith Numerous relics have been found on his farm which is on the shore of Monk's or Smith's Bay A favorite landing place of the Indians existed here from early times. Metal tomahawks have been found indicating the occupation of the place during historic times but there have been also relics found of prehistoric dates. Several years ago on the narrow tract of land between the two lakes (Simcoe and Couchiching) many stone axes were found. The place was near the Atherly Road on the way to Invermara and also near the bay just mentioned

XXI

At Invermara in the grounds of Orchard Point House (summer resort) formerly the Red Cross Hospital which is the property of Mr J P Secord Orillia. A paragraph appeared in each of the three Orillia newspapers of May 1 1890 mentioning the finding of a human skeleton with accompanying Indian relics and also other articles in the vicinity of the find There were numerous prehistoric as well as recent relics the remains thus belonging to all periods from the earliest downwards. Beside the single skeleton (apparently a woman's) there were some stamped out metal ornaments three brooches a double barred silver cross about four inches long, with Montreal and the maker's mark upon it. At a little distance away were found fragments of roughly ornamented pottery clay pipe heads stone axes a bone disk etc The relics found with the skeleton indicated that it belonged to a comparatively recent period but the clay pipe heads and fragments mostly belonged to the early Huron period The latter included a Huron flared pipe (plain) six belt pattern pipes and five images from pipes (an owl's head a hawk's head the head of another bird a nondescript image pig nosed or wolf nosed and a human face) The foregoing relics indicate various periods of occupation of the site as we might expect from the fact that the fishing station at a little distance north and in fact along the entire length of the Narrows attracted Indians thither at all times

XXII

FISHING STATION AT THE NARROWS

Remains of the fishing station and fish weir of the Hurons at the Narrows. The position of the old weir is north of the present bridges and south of the old railway bridge In 1887, the late Joseph

Wallace sr, a local archaeologist of Orillia, identified this as the fishing station mentioned in Champlain's Journal (1615) at the time when he had extracts from that Journal printed in the *Orillia Times* (See Champlain's Works Vol 4 page 34). Mr Wallace also contributed an article on the subject to *The Canadian Indian* (Sault Ste. Marie Ont.) and it appeared in the issue of that periodical for February 1891 pages 134 135 under the heading "A Fishing Station of the Ancient Hurons Identified" Owing to the rarity of that publication it is worth while reprinting here Mr Wallace's words in reference to the fish stakes After some general remarks on the object of Champlain's expedition he says —

The Narrows presents much the same features as in Champlain's days But its fame as a fishing ground has long vanished bass may still be caught with the rod or trolling and in the winter season some scores of Indians and whites may be seen spearing herrings through holes cut in the ice Still there is no doubt that at the time to which reference is made all those lakes were literally swarming with fish Are there any remains to point out the exact locality where those stakes crossed the strait? In answering this question in the affirmative I would state that some years since my friend Gilbert Williams an Indian informed me that he had seen very old stakes which were used by the Mohawks for catching fish Some time after when I was writing out the story of Champlain for one of our local papers I was conversing with Charles Jacobs on the subject who said he had also seen the stakes and further that the locality was known to this day as "mitchskun" which means a fence or the place which was fenced or staked across He said that if a strange Indian were to ask him where he came from he would answer "mitchekuning" the termination ing signifying from that is from Mitchekun We were at the time standing on the Orillia wharf and within sight of the end of the Narrows. Charles Jacobs said, ask old Mr Snake (who was standing near by) where Mitchekun is. As soon as I asked the old man he turned and pointed to the Narrows which was between two and three miles distant. In September 1886 I walked down to the Narrows and entered into conversation with Mr Frank Gaudaur who is of Indian extraction and the keeper of the Midland railway bridge who immediately took me to the side of the bridge and only a few paces distant and shewed me a number of the stakes which remained Dredging the channel for the purpose of navigation had of course removed the greater part of them only those on the outside of the dredged portion being left. Mr Gaudaur said that there were some other places where stakes might be seen but that this was the most complete part. The stakes as might be expected were a good deal twisted by the current, but the ends were still close together and firmly embedded in the clay and mud at the bottom so that it was only after considerable pulling with a spear that one was brought to the surface The stakes would be about five or six feet long and thicker than a walking stick It is to be observed that they are not placed across in a straight line indeed one portion is continued in a direction half way down the stream and would thus produce an angle when the line was changed upwards and at the opening of this angle would be placed the net and this is in exact accordance with the

method which Champlain describes when the Indians were hunting deer, that is by staking out a large space in the woods with an angle into which the game was driven It is not difficult to account for the stakes lasting for so many years when we consider that the tops were under the surface of the water thus escaping the action of the air and also that of the ice which in this locality is never of great thickness because of the rapidity of the current. It must be understood that we do not assert that these identical stakes existed there in Champlain's time although it is possible that some of them may be part of the original construction It was probably used for fishing purposes long after the time of Champlain and even after the destruction of the Hurons, for I am strongly inclined to suspect that a portion of the Mohawks settled down on the vanquished territory and remained there a considerable time. If such was the case the fence would be repaired from time to time as circumstances required with out altering the site to any material extent The stake which I had had been pointed with an axe of considerable sharpness as evidenced by the comparatively clean cuts made in the operation Our present Indians who are Ojibways, know nothing about them except the tradition before mentioned. Mr Snake is an old man and he stated to me that the old Indians, when he was young, referred the whole construction and its use to the Mohawks I have no doubt if they are not molested the remains will be in existence a century hence"

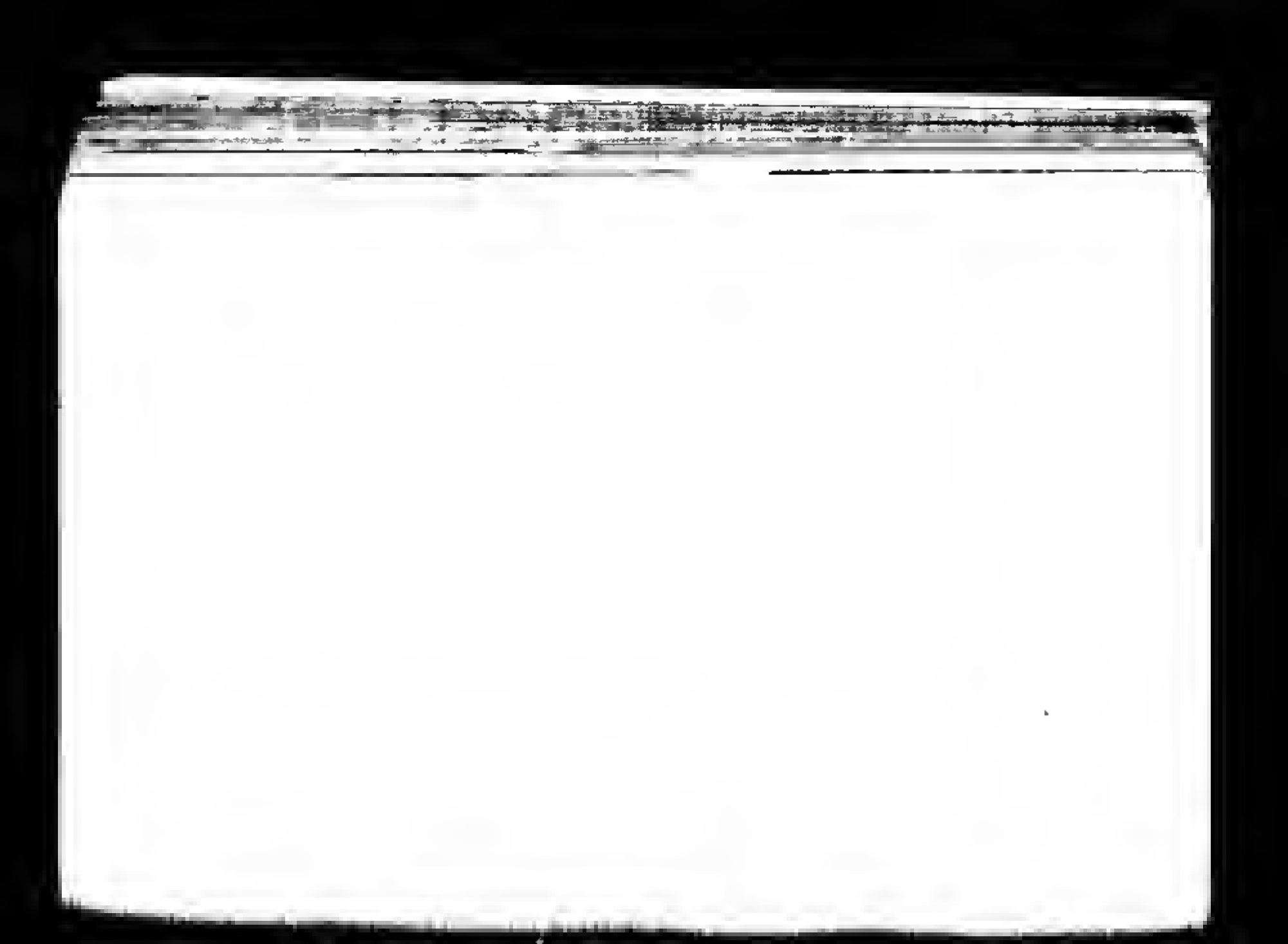
A paragraph in the *Orillia Packet* of June 21 1889 affords some further information upon the important fishing station — During his stay here Mr A C. Osborne of Panetanguishene accompanied by Mr Joseph Wallace sr. visited Mr F Gaudaur and they made a most interesting discovery A copy of Champlain's journal describes the method by which the Indians took fish in 1615 They had rows of stakes driven into the bottom of the Narrows in such a way as to corral the fish in passing from one lake to the other In this manner enough fish for the commissariat during the expedition in which they engaged against the Iroquois were taken in five or six days When this part of the journal was read to Mr Gaudaur he took his visitors to where the rows of stakes could be seen under water The Ojibways he said found these stakes there when they came a hundred and fifty or eighty years since knew what they were for but did not use them They were in large numbers and at one time extended quite across the Narrows but very many were thrown out in dredging the present channel The stakes are of tamarac Mr Osborne secured two—one had evidently been put down to replace another at a date subsequent to the other which was soft like cheese, when pulled out The top is desiccated and is covered with slime. Though only some six inches were visible they extend a long distance into the mud Mr Osborne believes that the older stick is one of those there when Champlain encamped at the spot. Mr Gaudaur says that these under water "fences" probably suggested the Ojibway name of Orillia or the Narrows—Michikaning, The Place of the Fence.

Following the publication of the foregoing paragraph the present writer communicated a letter to the *Orillia Packet* of July 5, 1889 suggesting that the early French name of Lake Simcoe viz Hurdle

Lake (Lac aux Claies) was derived from this fishing contrivance at the Narrows C C James M A made a similar suggestion in a letter to the *Toronto Globe*, May 26 1896 And in a letter to the *Orillia Packet* of April 2 1903 Aubrey White Deputy Minister of Crown Lands Toronto also suggests or rather points out as an established fact (though without citing any authority) that the early French adopted the idea of the name Hurdle Lake from the same Indian fish fence. The e three suggestions appear to have been made independently of each other making the validity of the suggestion very strong [See also Gen John S Clark's article in Ontario Archæologi cal Report for 1899 p 195]

A F HUNTER.

BARRIE December 1903



Notes on Sites of Indian Villages

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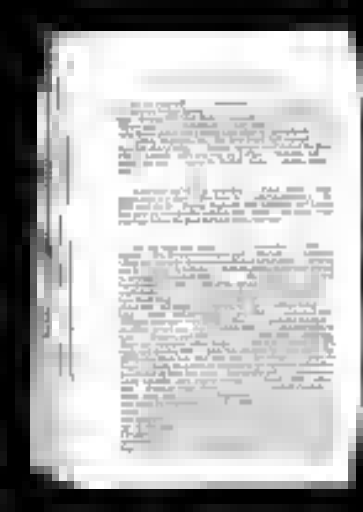

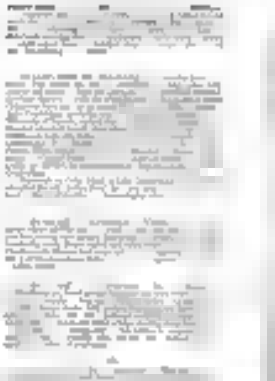

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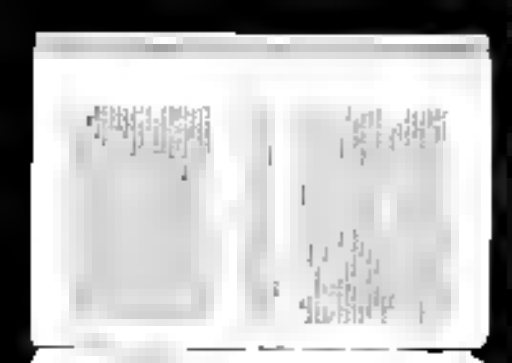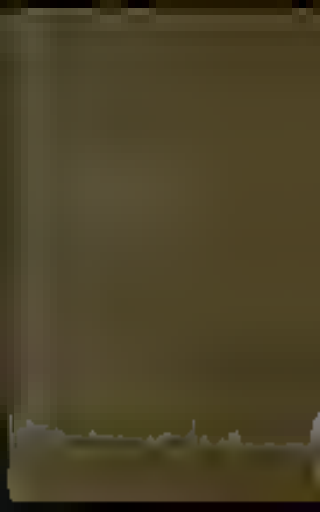
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